

**Strutting in style**

**BOSS, KSU students combine talents for fashion show**

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# Fort Riley Post

**Special section**

**Outdoor life on and around Fort Riley.**

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Friday, April 28, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 49, No. 17

## Around the Army

### Germany:

The European Stars and Stripes reported April 27 that U.S. motorists in Europe who purchase fuel through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service usually pay a little more per gallon than drivers in the States.

Citing the "adverse market conditions," AAFES has capped the amount of its next increase at the pumps at 10 percent – or 25 cents – above the current price.

That means, while the average price for a gallon of gas in the States is \$3.08 for premium unleaded, most AAFES customers in Europe will be paying between \$2.88 and \$2.96, depending on their location.

A look at the per-gallon prices across the continent:

**Germany:** Unleaded \$2.780, super unleaded \$2.885, diesel \$2.861  
**United Kingdom:** Super unleaded \$2.832, diesel \$2.811  
**Netherlands:** Super unleaded \$3.095, diesel \$3.060

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit [www.esrripes.com](http://www.esrripes.com) on the Web.

### Fort Knox:

The Turret reported April 20 that the Fort Knox community will not get an off-post family dental clinic.

An area market analysis revealed there are more than 49 Tricare Dental Program providers located within 15 miles of Fort Knox.

Because Fort Knox family members do not have a demonstrated access-to-care problem with the TDP, Fort Knox does not have a justifiable need to establish an AAFES family member dental clinic.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news, visit [www.henrystar.com](http://www.henrystar.com) on the Web.

### Fort Bliss:

The Monitor reported April 20 that GMH military housing, which began a 50-year partnership with the Army July 1, 2005, is in the midst of a \$400 million project that includes the maintenance, renovation, demolishing and rebuilding of 2,752 homes.

As part of GMH's "Life Works" program, two community centers will be constructed, one in the Mountain View housing area, soon to be known as Paso del Norte housing area, and one in Kelly Park.

The centers will offer Internet cafes, meeting rooms for residents, exercise areas, toddler lots and playgrounds for older children. A swimming pool and a full-scale basketball court will be added to the new and larger Paso del Norte center.

For more on this story and other Fort Bliss, Texas, news, visit [www.lavenpublishing.com/monitor\\_pub/monitor.html](http://www.lavenpublishing.com/monitor_pub/monitor.html) on the Web.

## DoD, OPM to appeal NSPS ruling

By Donna Miles  
AFPS

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department will appeal a federal judge's decision to block portions of the new civilian personnel system, a National Security Personnel System official said April 19.

The Justice Department has filed a notice of appeal with the

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on behalf of DoD and the Office of Personnel Management, confirmed Andy Ames, a Justice Department press assistant.

The notice signals DoD's and OPM's intention to file a formal appeal to overturn a previous court decision blocking NSPS, Ames said. The two organizations are partnering to establish the sys-

tem that eventually will affect more than 650,000 DoD civilian employees.

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan ruled in late February that provisions of the new system would fail to protect civilian employees' ability to bargain collectively. These provisions pertain to labor relations, collective bargaining, independent third-party review, adverse actions and the

National Security Labor Relations Board, DoD's proposed internal labor relations panel, the 77-page decision noted.

The American Federation of Government Employees and 12 other labor unions filed a lawsuit in November 2005 challenging the proposed system.

Joyce Frank, NSPS spokeswoman, said DoD is working closely with the Justice Depart-

ment and looks forward to presenting DoD's position before the U.S. Court of Appeals.

The appeal process will not affect the first phase of the system's implementation, scheduled for April 30, she said. About 11,000 DoD civilians will convert to the new civilian personnel system that day in "Spiral 1.1" of the phase-in process.

See NSPS, Page 12

## Growing NCOs



**2nd Bn., 16th Inf., Soldiers practice building clearing during the battalion's squad and team leaders' course March 31 at the MOUT site near the commissary. First sergeants identified Soldiers ranked private to specialist for the course, which was designed to develop squad and team leaders, a task usually assigned to sergeants.**

Post/Stairrett

## Shortage prompts squad, team leader training

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

The "Rangers" at Fort Riley are growing their own squad and team leaders to fill in for sparse manning.

Leading an infantry squad or team is usually a task for a sergeant or a Soldier with four to five years' experience, said Sgt. Maj. Randy Waddell, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. Because the "Rangers" lack men in its E-5 ranks, Soldiers ranked specialist and below are

being trained to take those positions.

"(We're) having to grow NCOs," Waddell said.

Two-week squad and team leaders' courses began at the end of March and concluded April 21. The goal of the training was to develop junior enlisted

Soldiers into squad and team leaders.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Companies A and B had about 80 Soldiers complete the course April 7 and Companies C and D had about 50 Soldiers complete the course April 21.

See Rangers, Page 3

## Kan. delegation to visit Germany

*Trip to acquaint troops to new home*

By Nicole Corcoran  
Governor's press secretary

"The Big Red One is coming home and the State of Kansas could not be happier," says Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

But with that happiness comes much planning and preparation for the expected 30,000 military personnel, civilians and families who will soon join the community.

April 25, in Junction City, Lt. Gov. John Moore, chairman of the Governor's Military Council, led the third in a series of planning meetings to finalize plans

for a trip to Germany in May to meet many of the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division who will soon call Kansas home.

The intent of the trip is to familiarize troops with their soon-to-be new home, give them resources to help with the move and make the transition easier for them and their families. The trip to visit the 1st Inf. Div. in Würzburg, Germany, is scheduled for May 4-6.

"We began working with local communities, planning for an influx of new troops long before we knew the 1st Inf. Div. was

See Delegation, Page 2

## No more 'rubber ducks'

*4th IBCT receives weapons, begins training*

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

The stand up of a new brigade requires a lot. A lot of time, a lot of patience, a lot of staff, a lot of Soldiers and a lot of equipment.

Weapons are essential to putting a light infantry brigade, or any brigade for that matter, on the training ranges and ultimately on the battlefield.

Fort Riley's 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team received all its small arms in March, after going months with only a few weapons. The brigade received a small shipment in December so Soldiers could conduct "minimal training," said Capt. Brian McCall, brigade force modernization officer.

Leaders did a good job of adapting to the situation, McCall said, which included using "rubber ducks" (fake weapons) or conducting drills on movement training without weapons.

The December shipment included a portion of the 4th IBCT's authorized M-16s, M-9 pistols M-2 machine guns.

After the entire package of small arms arrived last month, they were uncrated, unwrapped and processed in Building 7920. A Soldier detail assisted in assigning the weapons to companies. Company B, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Capt. Jeffrey Jager, received its small arms first.

The assignments weren't based on hierarchy, but a date that worked best for the individual

companies. Platoon sergeants decided which Soldiers would be best suited for each weapons system, said Capt. Greg Escobar, Company C, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., commander. Machine gunners are selected from the more stocky and athletic of the Soldiers because the weapon is heavier, he said.

About four companies were assigned weapons each day in a process that took about two weeks, "pretty good for a brigade," McCall said.

All the 4th IBCT's small weapons are new. Usually, Soldiers exchange old weapons for new, but because the brigade is new, most of its equipment is new. Some equipment is laterally transferred, meaning it comes from

See Weapons, Page 8





## Post, Army news briefly

### Correction:

In the April 14 issue of The Post, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, was referred to as an armor battalion in one instance. The same story also confused a measurement as millimeters when it should have been mils. The Post regrets the error.

### Bde. to change command

The 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, will conduct a change of command at 9 a.m. May 3 at Cavalry Parade Field.

Col. Bart Howard will pass the brigade's colors to Col. Jeffery D. Ingram as part of the ceremony.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be conducted in King Field House. Howard will be presented his end-of-tour award in an 8:30 a.m. ceremony at the Custer House the same morning.

A change of responsibility ceremony will be conducted at 3 p.m. May at Cavalry Parade Field. Command Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Moore will pass the colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Peter D. Burrows.

### PW staff slates training

The Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, has scheduled the following training courses in May:

**Environmental Team Training** at 9 a.m. May 8 and 9 in Room 6, Building 407. The course lasts two days.

Environmental Team Training certifies environmental team leaders and members on how to safely handle hazardous materials and waste handling as well as spill responses at the unit level.

Leaders and team members must attend this course within 60 days of appointment to their duties.

For more information or to enroll, call 239-0446 or check with a battalion schools non-commissioned officer.

**Environmental Team Training Refresher** at 9 a.m. May 15 in Room 6, Building 407. The class lasts two hours.

This course is an annual refresher to the Environmental Team Training course.

For more information or to enroll, call 239-0446 or check with a battalion schools non-commissioned officer.

**Battery Hazard Awareness Training** (Code Name Lithium) at 10 a.m. every Wednesday in Building 1930 at Camp Funston. The class lasts one hour.

This course is designed for key personnel who in the course of their duties receive, store, issue and then transport lithium batteries for disposal. This course includes training on the characteristics and hazards associated with the various types of lithium batteries used on Fort Riley.

This course includes training on health, safety and personal protective equipment when handling lithium batteries.

For more information or to enroll, call 239-2305 or 239-0446 or check with a battalion schools noncommissioned officer.

### Inf. battalion honors volunteers

Leaders of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, honored volunteer workers of the battalion's Family Readiness Group April 20 for service they rendered over the past year.

Through numerous field training exercises, last August's battalion deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center and through intense periods of preparation for deployment, many members of the FRG devoted themselves to providing strength and support to battalion families.

The volunteer FRG leaders provided personal time and resources to help other spouses and family members needing some help while their Soldiers are away.

At the ceremony, 67 volunteers were recognized for their service to the families and Soldiers of 1st Bn., 16th Inf., as well as their service to the Fort Riley and surrounding communities.

The awards included FRG Certificates of Appreciation, FRG Volunteer Award Pins, Year Guards One, Two and Three, as well as 1st Bn., 16th Inf., coins presented by Lt. Col. Frank Zachar, battalion commander.

### Post graduation ceremony set

A combined graduation ceremony for Fort Riley military personnel, family members and civilian personnel who are graduates of local colleges or Servicemember Opportunity Colleges Army Degrees college programs at 1 p.m. June 7 at King Field House.

For information on how to participate, call Adelina Morales at 239-6481.

Education Services Learning Centers will not be available from 10:30 a.m. June 7 through the end of the day for the graduation ceremony.

# Hospital's top NCO receives special award

By Jan Clark  
IACH PAO

The hospital's senior noncommissioned officer received the Infantry's Order of Saint Maurice Medal Legionnaire award April 7 at Irwin Army Community Hospital's monthly awards ceremony.

Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, commander of 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, at Fort Riley presented the medal in recognition of Command Sgt. Maj. Reyes M. Perez's service while deployed with Task Force MED 115th in Iraq from July 2004 to July 2005.

Task Force MED 115th was formed with elements of the 115th Field Hospital, Warrior Brigade, Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

A nominee for the Order of Saint Maurice must have served the infantry community with distinction and have demonstrated a significant conspicuous contribution in support of the infantry branch and must represent the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and dedication to duty.

The Legionnaire award is one of five medals falling under the

Order of Saint Maurice. It is presented for conspicuous contributions to the infantry and support of other branches of the U.S. military.

Col. Marilyn Brooks, IACH commander, said, "I don't believe there is any Soldier with a greater warrior spirit than the medic."

Combat medics are always there with the combat Soldier. A Soldier's goal is to engage the enemy, while the combat medic Soldier's goal is not to protect himself, but to take care of wounded Soldiers at any cost.

"I'm not the least surprised that Perez has received this award. There is no one, medic or otherwise, more deserving of this than Command Sgt. Maj. Perez."

The nomination can only be submitted by one who has already achieved the award. In Perez's case, Col. Patrick Landry, Warrior Brigade commander and recipient of the Primicerius Medal for significant and lasting contributions to the entire infantry, submitted the nomination.

On his behalf, Lt. Col. Bruce Upton, executive officer, 115th Field Hospital, said, "Perez stood out for his warfighting skills and



Command Sgt. Maj. Reyes Perez receives the Order of Saint Maurice from Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, Commander, 1st Bn. 28th Inf., at IACH's April awards ceremony. IACH/Clark

tactical expertise. In the 115th, we train to go to war. Perez goes beyond that, teaching his Soldiers to defend themselves and repel the enemy beyond the skills of a medic, nurse or medical technician. He instills basic infantry skills in his Soldiers, enabling them to survive in a combat environment."

Noting specific events, the nomination speaks of insurgent attacks at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. Perez ensured Soldiers were prepared and in position to repel attacks, ensured command and control of his Soldiers was established and that fighting positions were manned. Perez ensured that personnel were manning critical

battle positions, securing Coalition forces, civilians, patients and detainees.

Perez, a native of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, joined the Army in August 1979, training as a combat medic. His career has included positions as medical noncommissioned officer, squad leader, detachment noncommissioned-officer-in-charge, drill sergeant, platoon sergeant, operations NCOIC and first sergeant before his assignment as Command Sgt. Maj. for the 115th Field Hospital and deployment.

He arrived at Fort Riley and assumed the position of command sergeant major for IACH in August 2005.

## Delegation

continued from page 1

coming home," Moore said.

"Important work has been done to ensure we're able to accommodate this huge influx of individuals, and this trip continues that work. We're actually the first state to send a delegation to meet with units before they move to their new homes," he continued.

The delegation of 20 will represent the Governor's Military Council, the State of Kansas, Junction City and Manhattan city governments, Fort Riley and the Geary County and Manhattan-

Ogden school districts.

As part of the Lieutenant Governor's Accommodation Task Force, working groups have addressed key issues, such as schools, housing, medical, transportation and childcare. In addition to talking about these issues in Germany, the Kansas delegation will answer questions, address concerns and provide Soldiers there with contact information for liaisons around the Fort Riley community when they arrive.

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Post/Stairrett

2nd Bn., 16th Infantry, Soldiers practice moving from room to room during the battalion's squad and team leaders' course March 31 at the MOUT site by the commissary. HHC and Companies A and B went through the course the first two weeks of April and Companies C and D went through the course from April 14 to 21.

## Rangers continued from page 1

Each company's first sergeant selected Soldiers for the course based on age, maturity and their abilities to make sound judgments, Waddell said. Each first sergeant also led a day of training.

The skills the Soldiers learned included day and night weapons bore lighting, stress shooting and a variety of battle drills, including a day of room-clearing exercises.

The 1st Infantry Operations in Urban Terrain site in Camp Forsyth near Fort Riley's commissary.

Waddell said the course was a form of advanced basic training combined with leadership skills, a "totally different animal" than the Soldiers were used to.

"We're all very, very pleased with what they learned," Waddell said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at [amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil](mailto:amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil) or 239-397-

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Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at [amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil](mailto:amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil) or 239-3977.

## SWCPOC chief to retire after 37-year federal career

*By Mike Heronemus*  
*Editor*

After 37 years of federal service, John Ray has decided to leave Fort Riley April 29 and pursue other interests, "doing more volunteer work," for one thing, he said.

Ray is chief of Customer Focus Division A, Southwest Civilian Personnel Operations Center, a tenant activity at Fort Riley. His staff of about 115 people handle civilian personnel classifications and staffing and individual personnel actions for 24,000 employees of the Department of the Army and Defense Contracting Management Agency.

Most of the organizations his staff handle belong to the Corps of Engineers regions headquartered in Dallas, Vicksburg, Miss., and Cincinnati, he said. Other

agencies they handle include the Bluegrass Army Depot, Ky.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Carson, Colo.; McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Okla.; and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.

Three of Ray's 37 years federal service he spent in the Army. Two more he spent in the DA civilian intern program for management analysts. He came to Fort Riley in 1972 and found himself a home for the following 34 years.

His first three years at Fort Riley, Ray served as a resources management specialist. The rest of the time he has served in human resources management

One of the best jobs he held at Fort Riley was as civilian personnel officer while the 1st Infantry Division was still headquartered on post, Ray said. "That's because the civilian work force at Fort Riley has always been great," he

said. "They have a reputation for being the best in the Army."

Regionalization of Army civilian personnel offices was one of the most significant changes Ray said he has witnessed during his career. That, of course, meant some downsizing of civilian operations. At Fort Riley, the 30-person civilian personnel office became the 8- to 10-person Civilian Personnel Advisory Center it is today, he said.

But, centralizing production work has meant increased efficiency, Ray explained. Production work became centered in regional offices. At first there were 10 regions Armywide, he said. Those have been consolidated into five for the continental United States and one each in Alaska, Korea and Germany, he added.

*See John Ray, Page 12*

## 97th MP Soldier dies

### Staff report

Master Sgt. Ronald Suber, 41, of Thomasville, Ga., was pronounced dead April 21 at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

Suber was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 97th Military Police Battalion. He came into the Army in August 1985. He arrived at Fort Riley in March 2005.

Suber deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The Criminal Investigation Division is investigating the incident.

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Post, Army news briefly

4th IBCT leaders visit War College

Leaders of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team visited the U.S. Army War College April 10-13 on a staff ride. The primary purpose of the visit was to attend a two-day class on the Middle East and to tour Gettysburg.

The classes held at the Army War College focused on strategic factors shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East. The group received a briefing on understanding Middle Eastern culture. The Middle East lectures were the first in a series of lectures for the 4th IBCT leaders.

"Army elements preparing for deployment to the Middle East include the USAWC in their pre-deployment plans," said Larry Goodson, General Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security, Department of

National Security and Strategy. Goodson taught the classes attended by 4th IBCT leaders.

Maj. Gen. David Huntoon, USAWC commandant, also spoke with the leaders during their visit.

After attending the classes, the group took a staff ride to tour the Gettysburg Civil War battle site. Len Fullenkamp, professor in the Department of National Security and Strategy, led the staff ride and shared his historic knowledge with the leaders.

Reservists to make ride

Motorcycle riders of the 648th Area Support Group will bid farewell to Fort Riley by riding to Topeka for breakfast April 29. After breakfast, some riders will continue on to Kansas City for the Easy Rider Bike Show Tour.

The bikers will start the ride at the BP gas station in Grandview Plaza at 7:30 a.m. and will end for breakfast at IHOP, 1731 SW Wanamaker Rd., in Topeka.

Ed. Services to offer test

Education Services at Fort Riley will offer the ASE certification test May 9, 11 and 16. All active duty and reserve component Soldiers in a related Military Occupation Specialty, rating or Air Force Specialty Code are eligible to test for credit by examination or for certification. The registration deadline is March 15.

For more information or to register, visit an Army Education Counselor in Building 7604 (239-9485) on Parker Street or Building 217 (239-6481) on Main Post.

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# Commentary

Friday, January 6, 2006

Fort Riley Post

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## Riley Roundtable

### This week's question:

Some people say the holocaust never happened. How would you respond to that opinion?



"Wow. Did they go to history class? I've been to Dachau. It's pretty well undeniable."

**Capt. Bo Bradshaw**  
Executive officer  
Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor  
Home: Brandon, Miss.



"I know it did because my father helped liberate Auschwitz."

**Jonathan Braly**  
Maintenance worker  
Fort Riley Teen Center  
Home: Junction City, Kan.



"How can you ignore history? That would be like saying Columbus never sailed across the ocean. That would be like ignoring facts, ignoring evidence."

**1st Lt. Louis Hammond**  
Executive officer  
HHC, 70th Engineer Battalion  
Home: Anchorage, Alaska



"Goodness gracious, I've been to Auschwitz and Dachau. I lived in Europe for 15 years. Anybody that's been to those locations knows that it's a part of history. It's a sobering reality when you're there."

**Joann Valenzuela**  
Youth services director  
Home: Farmingdale, N.Y.



"I think they're crazy. It's a big part of history. If people don't think it really happened, they need to go back and read a history book."

**Pfc. Joseph Molnar**  
Company A, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry  
Home: Kissimmee, Fla.

### Next week's question:

What's your opinion about local civic representatives going to Germany to talk to 1st Infantry Division Soldiers about areas surrounding Fort Riley?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil) or faxed to the editor at 239-2592.

By Jim Garamone  
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Americans should take pride in what U.S. forces have accomplished in Iraq, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a radio interview today.

"We should also recognize that this has been a tough fight, that it will continue to be a tough fight, but that we are doing the right thing," Marine Gen. Peter Pace told WPIT's Bill LuMaye in North Carolina.

Pace said the enemy in the Long War understands the role public opinion - especially American public opinion - will play. He said the enemy in Iraq and elsewhere cannot make an impact on American forces "in any significant way. They are looking to have us throw in the towel, ... and that's why we need to stick with



Gen. Peter Pace

the story in Iraq is getting out. The general said that the concentration of news from Iraq is not what it was in April 2003. News organizations had hundreds of reporters embedded with coalition troops and the American people got the area 24/7.

But today the number of

this," he said. If the United States were to walk away from Iraq, the terrorists would simply turn to the next country, "or bring the fight to us here at home," the

reporters in Iraq and the amount of time devoted to Iraq has been cut. "What gets put on - especially on television - are things that capture your eye, which is the bombs going off," Pace said. "Digging wells and building schools and paving roads don't quite rise to that level."

Pace said the Iraqi military is doing a good job of taking over security in many parts of the country. More than 250,000 Iraqi soldiers and police are now trained and equipped. Since last November, Iraqi forces have conducted more independent operations than coalition forces, Pace said. In fact, he noted, of all operations at company level or higher, the Iraqis conduct 83 percent independently or in conjunction with coalition forces. Coalition forces working alone do only 17 percent.

"As a result, Iraqis are in the

lead," Pace said. "They are taking more casualties, they are being loyal to their government and taking the fight to the enemy."

The chairman said it is important that the coalition not leave Iraq until the government can rely on the security provided by its own armed forces. The Iraqis deserve the opportunity to put together their own democracy, he said.

He reminded listeners that for decades Iraq was a dictatorship ruled in the most oppressive manner by Saddam Hussein. "Folks who have enjoyed freedom for decades are having a hard time understanding why it might take folks who have never done this before a little while to figure it out," he said. "We should have some patience with them, and support them so they can put together a leadership team that can take them into the future."

### Command message

## Pace speaks on fighting the tough fight

### Command message

## Recruiting reflects troops' commitment

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said April 11 he encouraged that the military services are exceeding their recruiting targets and called it an indication of the caliber of men and women joining and serving in the armed services. "It is encouraging that so many outstanding young people are continuing to raise their hands and volunteer to serve our country," he told Pentagon reporters.

The secretary referred to recruiting and retention rates released April 10 that show all four services met or exceeded their active-duty recruiting goals in March for the 10th consecutive

month. Retention rates also remained high among active-duty troops, and all six reserve components reported solid recruiting and retention efforts.

"The men and women of the United States military protecting our country are serving superbly in many areas of the world, including Iraq," Rumsfeld said today. He noted specific examples in Africa, including the Horn of Africa area, and Afghanistan, all critical to the global war on terror.

"Over the past few years, military units have trained military



Donald H. Rumsfeld

personnel in Africa in an effort to help those countries deny terrorists safe havens and confront threats before they become crises," Rumsfeld said.

U.S. forces are deterring potential terrorist recruits in the Horn of Africa through their work with local villagers, he said. The secretary quoted a Marine, who said, "It's hard to recruit terrorists when (the) kids are saying, 'Those are the same people who built schools and played with us.'"

Meanwhile, U.S. forces are working with Afghans and NATO forces to help rebuild that former

terrorist safe haven. "Millions of Afghans defied threats of violence to participate in parliamentary elections and the first presidential election they've had in 5,000 years," Rumsfeld said.

One clear sign of Afghanistan's progress is that "Afghans are voting with their feet" and returning home, he said. "Some 3.6 million refugees from around the world have returned to Afghanistan" in what Rumsfeld called one of the world's largest refugee repatriation operations.

"The American people can certainly be proud of the men and women in uniform and what they are accomplishing," Rumsfeld told reporters today. "They are working mightily to keep the American people safe."

### Need to call for help?

Fort Riley domestic violence and sexual assault response line (24 hours) — (785) 307-1373  
Fort Riley Victim Advocate Program — (785) 239-9435

Chaplains — (785) 239-4357  
Irwin Army Community Hospital emergency room — (785) 239-7777

Military Police (785) 239-MPMP (6767)  
Local Police (on and off post) — 911

For confidential, free services, including safe shelter, call The Crisis Center, Inc. (24 hours) — (800) 727-2785  
Kansas Statewide Hotline — 1-888-END-ABUSE (363-2287)  
National Domestic Violence Hotline — 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

### Want a Post?

If you live off-post and don't want to make a trip to the PX, shopette, commissary or other distribution points on post, look for racks with free copies of the Post in these locations:

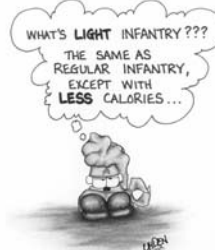
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Ogden  
ShopQuick  
Casey's

### Grunt By Wayne Uhden



### FORT RILEY POST

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TASC photo

**Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, signs post Law Day proclamation with SJA staff members (l. to r.) Staff Sgt. Keith Wieland, Capt. Mark Malcolm, Sgt. Melissa Applebee, Capt. Nicholas Anderson, Capt. Jeffrey Dietz, Capt. David Fournier and Capt. Emilee Elbert.**

**By David A. Fournier**  
*Legal Assistance Attorney*

Since 1958, May 1 has been set aside in our nation to recognize the role that our Constitution and laws play in our lives; to honor the judges, lawyers, legal staff and regular citizens who make our system of laws function.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley has signed a proclamation designating May 1 as Law Day for the Fort Riley community. The proclamation calls for Soldiers, citizens, schools, businesses and media of the community to use this occasion to preserve and strengthen the rule of law.

This year's theme for Law Day is

## CG declares 'Law Day'

"Separate Branches/Balanced Powers," recognizing the importance of our three separate branches of government — Executive, Legislative and Judicial. The founders of our Nation recognized how important it is to keep the power of government from being centralized in one person, or in one branch of government. By separating the powers as they did, they helped to secure our freedoms.

The separation of powers in our Constitution does more than divide the powers among the three branches of government. It also provides for a system of checks and balances. Some examples of the checks and balances in our government include the power of the president to veto bills passed by Congress, the ability of Congress to override vetoes or to remove a president for crimes in

office.

The attorneys, paralegals and civilian employees of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate on Fort Riley have several events planned for the week of May 1, 2006, including a luncheon with the Wichita Bar Association and a golf tournament with the local legal community. Teams of JAG attorneys and paralegals will also be making presentations to fifth and seventh-grade students on Fort Riley about Law Day and the theme "Separate Branches/Balanced Powers."

Law Day is celebrated annually by legal professionals all over the United States, and throughout the Judge Advocate Corps of the United States military worldwide. For more information about Law Day activities, please contact Capt Emilee Elbert at 239-3545.

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## Post, Army news briefly

### Pre-retirement orientation set

The semiannual preretirement orientation will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 5 at Riley's Conference Center. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. at Riley's.

This orientation is for individuals who have submitted their request for retirement; however, any Soldier contemplating retirement in the near future is welcome to attend.

The purpose of the orientation is to present information concerning rights, benefits and responsibilities in conjunction with retirement.

For further information, stop by the Retirement Services Office in Building 210 or call 239-3320 or 239-3667.

### Information ops to recruit on post

The U.S. Army Information Operations Proponent will conduct a Fort Riley information and recruiting visit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 8 and from 8

a.m. to noon May 9 in Room 11 of Learning Center 2, Building 7656 on Custer Hill.

Representatives from USAIOP and Human Resources Command-Alexandria will give an overview briefing for officers interested in learning about Functional Area 30 (Information Operations) and the Career Field Designation process.

For an appointment or additional information, send e-mail to Henry.David.Pendleton@us.army.mil or call (913) 684-5320 (DSN 552-5320). Walk-ins throughout both days will be accepted.

### ISO staff offers weather training

Members of the Fort Riley Installation Safety Office are available for severe weather safety training. Training covers indicators of severe weather, developing emergency action plans and other safety tips.

To arrange a class date, time and location, call the safety office at 239-2514.

# Court-martial date set for Soldiers

## Staff report

Charges have been preferred under the Uniform Code of Military Justice against Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Muntz and Spec. James K. Tillery. Both Soldiers, from Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, were involved in an inci-

dent that led to the death of Pfc. Donald E. Compton on Jan. 25.

Compton, also from Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., died when he was shot during a training exercise on Range 9 at Fort Riley.

Muntz was referred to a Bad Conduct Discharge level court by Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, com-

manding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, for one charge of dereliction of duty on several occasions concerning acts on the day of the shooting.

Tillery was referred to a general court-martial by the commanding general for dereliction of duty,

involuntary manslaughter and negligent discharge.

A trial date of June 5 has been set for Muntz.

A date for Tillery has not yet been set.

The charges are only allegations and both Soldiers are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

## Marriages send message to servicemembers

### Sailors face charges for faking marriage to raise BAH

#### By Donna Miles

AFPS

WASHINGTON — A case in which several Sailors face charges for arranging sham marriages to foreign women to boost their military housing allowances sends an important message to all servicemembers, a Navy lawyer told a Pentagon Channel reporter.

"You're putting in a claim for money that you are not entitled to, and that is a crime. And if you commit a crime, you can expect to be held accountable for it," said Capt. Jennifer Herold, the Navy's deputy assistant judge advocate

general for criminal law policy. "This is something that each of the services takes very seriously."

On the surface, the scheme looked like a good deal, at least for the people directly involved. The Sailors got bigger paychecks when factoring in the higher basic allowance for housing.

Active-duty servicemembers receive the tax-free BAH payment to offset their housing costs if they don't live on base. The allowance increased based on location, marital status and the number of dependents.

That's on top of the \$6,000 each of the women paid the seaman who arranged the marriages,

Steve Cole, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney general's office in Jacksonville, Fla., said.

By marrying into the U.S. military, the women, eight from Poland and one from Romania, qualified to apply for U.S. citizenship and received a military dependent identification card.

But in the end, everyone involved in the deal turned out to be a loser.

A Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent aboard the USS John F. Kennedy got tipped off to the scam and launched an investigation in September. NCIS agents learned that eight Sailors stationed in Mayport, Fla., and a for-

mer Sailor fraudulently married the women to get the BAH.

An investigation by NCIS and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement found that none of the women lived with the Sailors they had married. In several cases, the Sailors claimed the women lived in high-cost areas so they qualified for higher BHAs.

The Navy stopped the allowances, which amounted to a total of \$35,000, in November.

But the consequences got more serious earlier this month when U.S. Attorney Paul Perez, Carol Kisthardt from NCIS, and Robert

See Marriages, Page 12





# Weapons continued from page 1

other units.

Associated arms equipment, such as scopes, magazines and slings, arrived with the weapons shipment.

Marksanship is one of the core fundamentals established by Col. Ricky Gibbs, 4th IBCT commander, McCall said. The brigade's Soldiers weren't able to carry out that training fully until they received their weapons. Units have been on the range constantly since receiving their small arms, McCall said.

April 5 marked the beginning of small arms break-in for Co. B, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., and the battalion dedicated a whole week for the process. Soldiers fired 76,000 rounds of ammunition downrange that day. The battalion used twice the amount of ammunition it would typically be allocated for an entire year during the break-in week.

"The post has been pretty generous," Escobar said.

To completely break their weapons in, Soldiers shot 300 rounds through their weapon's barrel.

"The theory is to fire and then

let the barrel cool down between each iteration," Escobar said.

This is called "burning" or "seasoning" the gun, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wright, brigade master gunner. Soldiers cycle rounds through their weapons to identify problems and explore the weapon's capabilities.

This was the first time the weapons had been fired since they were tested at the factory where they were made.

The second day was spent zeroing and qualifying the small arms. Soldiers must gain confidence with their weapons and confidence using their scopes, said 1st Sgt. Greg Dailey, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. So far, all the Soldiers met the standard qualifications, Dailey said April 6.

"The guys are doing pretty amazing, considering they are coming straight out of AIT (Advanced Individual Training) and basic training," he said.

Pvt. Matthew Hickok of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., is an M-240B assistant gunner who arrived at Fort Riley Jan. 28. Hickok said he was glad to get

back into the groove of things and start shooting again. It was the first time he had shot a weapon since basic training.

"(The Soldiers have) been waiting a while, so getting bullets going downrange is good for them," said Sgt. Christopher Ashwell, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., training room noncommissioned officer.

Pvt. Dan Styles and Spc. Thomas Smith, both of Co. A, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., were excited to finally be on the range firing the weapon they'll take into combat.

"About time," Styles commented.

The two cheered after Styles hit three for three on the machine gun zero range.

"That's what I'm talking about!" Styles shouted before Smith kissed and smacked his helmet.

"You're making that gun look sexy!" shouted a Soldier on the next lane.

"It is sexy!" Styles replied.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at [amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil](mailto:amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil) or 239-3977.



Post/Stairrett

Pvt. Dan Styles and Spc. Thomas Smith, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., fire their weapon April 6 during the battalion's weapons break-in week. The 4th IBCT received its complete small arms shipment at the end of March and the brigade's Soldiers spent the following weeks breaking in the brand new weapons.



Post/Stairrett

Staff Sgt. James Davison looks over a zero target with Pvt. Jeremiah Lewis and Pvt. Raymond Moungey during 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., weapons break in week April 6. The 4th IBCT received its complete small arms shipment at the end of March and the brigade's Soldiers spent the following weeks breaking in the brand new weapons. Being a light infantry brigade, small arms are "our bread and butter," said Capt. Greg Escobar, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., commander. "We take quite a bit of pride in them."

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# Team engages 'bloggers'

## CENTCOM spreads 'whole story' via Web

By Steve Alvarez  
AFPS

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The widespread use of Web logs, or "blogs," by online writers has proliferated information on topics as varied as the authors.

Blogs, in essence, are online journals or forums for their authors, known as "bloggers."

Public affairs officials with U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., said thousands of blogs are created each day, and they estimate that more than 21 million blogs are posted on the World Wide Web today.

Blogs sometimes include information — accurate and otherwise — about the U.S. military's Global War on Terror. CENTCOM officials took notice and created a team to engage these writers and their electronic information forums.

"The main interest is to drive their readers to our site," Army Reserve Maj. Richard J. McNorton said. McNorton is CENTCOM's chief of engagement operations.

Anyone who wants a virtual voice can create a blog and share information with the online world. The ease with which bloggers spread information is what public affairs officials at CENTCOM saw when they created the blog team.

### Contacting bloggers

McNorton said the team contacts bloggers to inform the writers about any given topic that may have been posted on their site. This outreach effort enables the team to offer complete information to bloggers by inviting them to visit CENTCOM's Web site for news releases, data or imagery.

The team engages bloggers who are posting inaccurate or untrue information, as well as bloggers who are posting incomplete information. They extend a friendly invitation to all bloggers to visit the command's Web site.

Many bloggers appreciate the team's contact, blog team officials said, and most post CENTCOM's Web site as a link on their blog sites. This, McNorton said, has a "viral effect" that drives Internet news consumers to CENTCOM's Web site.

"Now (online readers) have the opportunity to read positive stories. At least the public can go there and see the whole story. The public wants to hear these good stories," he said, adding that the news stories the military generates are "very factual."

From his desk at CENTCOM headquarters, Army Reserve Spc. Claude Flowers of the 304th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Kent, Wash., fights in the Global War on Terror daily in his own way. It is an effort, CENTCOM officials said, that is making a big difference in the communications arena in the online world.

The team's motto is "Engage," and Flowers and others work with more than 250 bloggers to try to disseminate news about the good

work being done by U.S. forces in the global war on terror. The effort, officials said, has reached more than 17 million online readers.

"We were given the mission to do electronic media engagement," Flowers said. "The idea was put forth that so many people are getting their news from online sources that we would be remiss if we neglected that audience."

### Promoting CENTCOM, not policing

Flowers is one of three people who read blogs and try to drive Internet readers to the CENTCOM Web site, where readers can learn more about operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"We needed to do something to make people aware of the fact that we had this clearinghouse of photos and information," Flowers said. "We can get the whole story out there. We let them know we have a Web site."

Flowers said the Web site is filled with informative facts, figures, imagery, data and information that readers can digest before a third party processes and presents the information for them through other media.

"Certainly anyone is welcome to use the material on the Web site," Flowers said. "So far, the reception has been tremendous."

Team members said they have contacted a full spectrum of bloggers. In one instance, a blogger was writing about the opening of a water treatment plant in Iraq. The writer was presenting the information as a positive milestone for the U.S. military in Iraq, but the information was not complete. The team contacted the writer and offered information via the CENTCOM Web site, and more information was added to the blog to make the article more accurate.

In another blog contact, the team wrote a blogger who had written untrue information about U.S. military tactics. The blogger stated that the U.S. military routinely used children in Iraq and Afghanistan as human shields during their operations by using candy to entice and lure kids near them. The team posted a comment on the writer's blog stating that the U.S. military did not use human shield tactics and explained the full circumstances of the incident where Iraqi chil-

dren died in 2004 when insurgents attacked U.S. forces in Baghdad.

Most blogs ordinarily have a feature that enables readers to contact the writer or allows readers to post comments. When the team "reaches out" to a blogger, the team members do not conceal their identity. They fully disclose that they are public affairs personnel and identify themselves accordingly. And, McNorton said, they are there to correct information, no more.

"We don't go in there and get into a debate," he said. And officials here are quick to point out that they are not policing Web sites. They are simply offering bloggers the opportunity to get raw information directly from the source.

### Soldier bloggers

Flowers said that many military personnel have also become bloggers during their deployments as a way to keep friends and family informed on their activities in the war. Here too, the team members don't police content, but if they do discover an operational security violation, they contact the blogger's command to point out the security violation.

"(Operational security) for a Web site is no different than OPSEC for a letter," Flowers said.

"You shouldn't publish anything you don't want everyone to read," he said, adding that the enemy uses open sources of information to wage war on Coalition forces.

But, he said, "The power of military blogs is that they're a letter home from servicemen and women that the entire world can read," Flowers said.

All bloggers have their niche audience, Flowers said. Some are faith-based, others are military community members and others are involved in mustering humanitarian aid for people in Iraq or Afghanistan. But while the reasons for their blogs differ, most bloggers consistently offer the same comment to Flowers and his team.

"Repeatedly we hear from people, 'I never would have heard this story in the mainstream media,'" Flowers said. "People really are interested in what Soldiers are doing. Blogs are individual statements. They're the voice of individuals. They're a way of understanding this war on a very human level."



Post/Blackmen

## Squad leader training

Spc. Thomas Yanelli (far left), Pvt. Robert Sensibaugh (center) and two other Soldiers from Co. C, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., work on entering and clearing a trench during a battle drill April 20.

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# Area couple teaches special forces



Post/Stairrett

Fred Giltzow, a retired master sergeant, retired police officer and senior instructor at the Survive, Evade, Resist, Escape program based at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C., blows on coals embedded in a handful of brush April 14. Giltzow and another instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Stefen Benning, had just demonstrated how to build a fire by rubbing a piece of mullin stalk against a piece of basswood. The friction creates a coal and then that coal was placed in a bundle of brush like the one Giltzow is holding. The fire is then built up using bigger brush and sticks.

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

It's not too hard to find John and Geri McPherson's place. Drive through the sleepy town where everyone probably knows everyone else's business and turn left at the stop sign - there's not too many.

Cross the highway and turn before hitting the cleanly developed Fancy Creek Park where the fancy RV is parked. In a minute or two the whole landscape will change.

Wait for someone to open the two gates and then bounce over the winding tire path worn into the pasture.

You'll know the place when you see it, a spacious log cabin with solar panels affixed to the top. A campfire pit anchors the shady front yard dotted with piles of stones. Animal pelts hang from tree branches and hand-woven baskets rest on chairs.

A large husky-shepherd mix may amble over, but not to worry, that's just Gypsy. She's yours if you've got some food or a little time for a pet.

The place looks rustic, hardly like the recreational area just down the hill that attracts weekend frolickers. It sounds rustic

## Want more information?

For more information on the McPhersons and survival skills, visit <http://prairiewolf.net/Pages/SFPage.html>

too, the clacking of flint stone and crackle of a campfire would drown out the chatter of traffic, not that there is any around.

John and Geri have lived this lifestyle for years: simple, but not entirely cut off. They have an out-house, but they also have a toilet, running water, a cell phone and enough electricity to power a television and computer connected to the Internet.

Geri has a soft voice and welcoming smile. She and John often take Gypsy to town for ice cream.

Picking John out of a crowd would be easy. The 57-year-old ex-paratrooper, who retired at Fort Riley, has got the look: long gray hair held back with a bandana around his forehead, gray beard, rough hands, tan and thin, but solidly built. He knows about the television show, "Survivor" and scoffs, "That's so fake." John also knows about "Survivorman"

Les Stroud, and says he trained with the McPhersons in the early 1990s.

"Bullshit," he scoffs again. "He knows how to market himself."

The McPhersons have skills the average person doesn't have - survival skills they use to help train some of the most elite Soldiers in the world. For three years, John and Geri have trained instructors, two by two, from the Survive, Evade, Resist, Escape program. The program is based at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C., and courses are taught nearby at Camp MacKall, the Special Forces compound.

The last of the school's eight instructors were in Kansas April 5 to 17 learning primitive wilderness survival skills they would take back to Special Forces Soldiers. About 200 students a month go through a 21-day course at the S.E.R.E. school to learn basic survival skills in the event they are stranded or escape from enemy forces.

John says it's the "best and toughest survival school in the military."

Fred Giltzow, a senior instructor, and Sgt. 1st Class Stefen Benning spent a week with the McPhersons building fires with nothing more than a weed stalk

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# instructors primitive survival skills

and a stick, weaving plant fiber into rope, assembling water containers from animal parts and constructing small traps from rocks.

Giltzow is a lean, tanned retired master sergeant and police officer with a New England accent and laugh lines around his eyes. He slips the McPherson's cat treats from his MRE during lunch and talks to the roaming pets as if they are children.

Benning is a young, red-haired wall of muscle with an enthusiastic voice. His arms look as if he could crush the flint he was knocking together.

Giltzow and Benning know their stuff. Both have seen extensive combat as Special Forces Soldiers. Both also have some knowledge in wilderness survival. The two-week training with the McPhersons was concentrated, designed to teach the instructors survival at the most basic level – as if they were stranded with nothing. No tools, no matches, no plastic bags, nothing.

"This is all worse-case scenario," Benning said. "(A Soldier may be) captured in a POW camp and may escape with no shoes."

Soldiers in survival situations will usually have some kind of



**Strips of deer meat dry in the sun outside the McPhersons' home. For outdoor survival, meat should be sliced in pieces no thicker than 1/4 inch because flies won't lay their eggs in meat that thin, said Fred Giltzow. Finding maggots in your food when trying to survive is a "psychological kick in the face," he said.**

equipment, but the McPhersons teach the instructors to get everything from the land. John and Geri own the land surrounding their home and use the landscape and everything in it to train the instructors.

"Everything you need to live primitive is right here," John said, sweeping his arm toward the land surrounding him.

This isolation is the best thing for this type of training, Benning said. The instructors are away

from Fort Bragg and Camp MacKall and can concentrate on the training with no distractions. Giltzow calls the McPhersons "subject matter experts" and says the atmosphere at their home is conducive to survival training.

"This is the way they live. This is their everyday life," Benning added. "You can really learn a lot from that."

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at [amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil](mailto:amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil) or 239-3977.



(From left) Geri McPherson, Sgt. 1st Class Stefan Benning, Fred Giltzow and Bill Landsdown (standing) watch John McPherson melt a natural sealant in a small pot over a fire April 14. Benning and Giltzow are instructors for the Survive, Evade, Resist, Escape program based at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C. The McPhersons and their friend, Landsdown, teach the instructors primitive survival skills that they will pass on to Special Forces Soldiers in the S.E.R.E. program.

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## NSPS continued from page 1

NSPS is one of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's key initiatives designed to transform DoD operations to better meet 21st-century needs. It is designed to replace an outdated, 50-year-old civilian personnel management system that had rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance. The new program, in development since 2003, replaces the current general-schedule personnel system with broad pay bands.

Rumsfeld pointed April 18 to the new civilian personnel system as an example of the many sweeping changes within DoD that are

causing discomfort among people resistant to change.

"We have passed a National Security Personnel System so that we could begin to get a grip on how we manage the Department of Defense and the civilian population, the work force, which is so important," Rumsfeld told Pentagon reporters.

"And it's tied up in the courts, and it'll take time. It's been three years, I think, that we've been struggling with it, so far. And that's hard for people, that change," Rumsfeld said. "The idea of paying for performance is stunning for some people."

## John Ray continued from page 3

Now there is a lot of talk about "turning purple," he said. That refers to the possibility of combining personnel services of all military branches into joint branches.

The Army and Air Force combined their financial services many years ago when they created the Defense Finance and Accounting Services.

Ray said he never saw a need to leave Fort Riley. "I

was always in the right place at the right time," he explained about being able to advance in his career without leaving the post. "I've really enjoyed working here. I've always felt a pride about working here, and I've always worked with good military and civilian leaders."

*Mike Heronemus can be contacted at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil) or 239-8854.*

## Marriage continued from page 7

Weber from ICE announced the arrests of eight Sailors and one former Sailor on charges of marriage fraud or conspiracy to commit marriage fraud. Their wives were also charged.

The Sailors and women involved could face up to five years in prison per count against them, Cole said.

"A lot of people don't realize the seriousness of this and think they'll simply get a slap on the hand if they're caught," said Cole, a former Soldier. "But as this case shows, the consequences are really serious."

Submitting a false BAH claim – whether it involves a sham marriage or doctoring numbers to get a bigger payment – is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Herold said.

In the most severe cases, the penalty is a dishonorable discharge and up to 10 years confinement, she said.

Herold offered a warning to anyone who thinks BAH fraud is no big deal. "They need to stop and think hard before they decide to commit that crime, because the military takes it very seriously," she said.

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# Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, April 28, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

## Community news briefly

### Chaplaincy adds service

Worship opportunities at Fort Riley now include a service in the Liturgical Protestant tradition.

The one-hour service begins at 9 a.m. in historic St. Mary's Chapel, 3 Barry Avenue.

For more information, contact the pastor, Chaplain (Maj.) Greg Thogmartin at 239-5711 or call the Installation Chaplain's Office at 239-3359.

### KSU coach to speak

Kansas State University football coach Ron Prince will speak about "Building Strong Families" to wrap up Child Abuse Prevention Month on post.

His talk will be from 6 to 8 p.m. May 1 in the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264 on Normandy Drive, Custer Hill.

A special performance by the Junction City High School Men's Ensemble is also planned.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 239-9435.

### Conference set for families

National speaker Tom Nelson will conduct a marriage conference for military couples on from 7 to 10 p.m. May 19 and from 9 a.m. to noon May at the Riley's Conference Center.

His topic will be "What Your Mate Thought You Meant When You Said, 'I Do.'"

The conference is free but tickets are required. See a unit chaplain for tickets or call Don Erickson at 239-0979.

Limited on-site childcare will be available for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. To reserve childcare space, call Lisa Ramsey at 239-4814. All children will need to have proof of immunizations.

### Spouses' club to meet May 18

The Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club May luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. May 18 at the Junction City Country Club. The menu will include a choice of chicken salad with almonds on a croissant or a chicken Caesar wrap. Both choices are served with chips, a fruit cup and cherry pie.

Members should RSVP for the event by May 10 to the reservations chair at 784-8454 or reservations@fortrileyocsc.com.

For childcare reservations, contact the reservations chair at 784-2793.

### School slates PTA carnival

Fort Riley Elementary School, 104 Morris Avenue on Main Post, will conduct its annual Spring PTA Carnival from 4 to 7 p.m. April 29.

Entertainment for the evening includes Clarabelle's Performing Arts Citadel, a K-9 demonstration and the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

Also available are at least 15 opportunity baskets to bid on.

Game tickets cost 25 cents and opportunity chances cost \$1.

## Post honors adult, youth volunteers



Debbi Elliott

By Anna Morelock  
Staff writer

Volunteer of the Year Debbi Elliott and Youth Volunteer of the Year Shontay Osterman-Bailey presented Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley with a simulated check for \$2,290,520.70 at the Volunteer

Recognition Ceremony in Riley's Conference Center April 24.

The check was made out to the Fort Riley community and symbolized the almost 127,000 hours of work by Fort Riley volunteers in 2005.

The volunteers' efforts saved the fort and taxpayers almost \$2.3 million that would have been spent to pay salaried employees providing those ser-

vices. More than 2,200 volunteers spent more than 70,000 hours working with service organizations, more than 13,650 hours in support of Fort Riley chapel activities and more than 57,000 hours in service to battalions on post.

After certificates were awarded to all nominees, the Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year were announced.

Elliott said she was in shock and awed to be chosen as Volunteer of the Year.

"The Army is what we know and what we love, so whatever we do to make things better for people we try to do," Elliott said of herself and her husband, Maj. Chip Elliott, who both grew up as "Army brats."

Elliott was nominated for her



Shontay Osterman-Bailey

See Volunteers, Page 14

## Looking good

### Students, Soldiers, others step out in style

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

It was not a fashion show without a little drama.

Soon before Beth Roberts was to take the stage April 22 at the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers' 2nd Annual Spring Fashion Show to model a dress her friend Danielle Regan made in a textiles class at Kansas State University, the zipper broke.

In the dressing room, Roberts had bent down to retrieve something from her bag and the teeth of the zipper pulled apart.

Regan, who made the burgundy gown inspired by 18th century fashions, complete with more than 100 handmade pleats, said she had a love-hate relationship with the dress, but wasn't about to give up. She ran from the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center to the nearby Wal-Mart, bought some needles and thread and sewed

See Fashion, Page 14



Danielle Regan, a senior at Kansas State University, and her mom sew the back of a dress she designed and made so it could be modeled at the BOSS fashion show April 22.



Post/Stairrett

Two audience members pose on the catwalk during the personal style section of BOSS' 2nd annual fashion show with the Kansas State University Fashion and Design Department April 22 at the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center in Junction City. The show featured clothing from Junction City and Manhattan retailers, personal style segments, swimming suits and fashions designed by KSU students. More than 40 audience members volunteered to show off their style during the segment.

### Disease breaking out in area

## Virus causes mumps; care guidelines offered

By Pete Wiemers  
Community Health Nurse

Mumps is a disease caused by a virus that usually spreads through saliva and can infect many parts of the body, especially the parotid salivary glands.

These glands, which produce saliva for the mouth, are found toward the back of each cheek in



### FOR YOUR HEALTH

the area between the ear and jaw. The well-known hallmark of mumps is swelling and pain in the parotid glands.

Cases of mumps may start with a fever of up to 103 degrees, as well as a headache and loss of appetite. The glands usually

become increasingly swollen and painful over a period of one to three days. Symptoms appear in the first week after the parotid glands begin to swell and may include high fever, stiff neck, headache, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, convulsions and other signs of brain involvement. Children usually recover from mumps in about 10 to 12 days. It takes about a week for the swelling to disappear in each

parotid gland. Because mumps is caused by a virus, it cannot be treated with antibiotics.

Mumps in adolescent and adult males may also result in an inflammation of the testicles. Usually, one testicle becomes swollen and painful about seven to 10 days after the parotitis swell. This is accompanied by a high fever, shaking chills,

See Mumps, Page 14





# Shriners donate tickets for circus

By Stephanie Perrin  
Asst. Media Rel. Officer

Almost 200 military children received tickets to the Isis Shrine Circus the weekend of April 21 through 23 at the Salina Bicentennial Center. Shriners also donated 150 tickets to spouses of deployed Fort Riley Soldiers to attend the various circus shows throughout the weekend.

"We thought it would be a nice thing to do," said Dick Lacey, secretary for the Junction City and Fort Riley Shriners' Club. The Shriners donated nearly 600 tickets to last year's circus to family members of Soldiers in the 3rd Brigade, he said.

"We wanted to do something like that again," Lacey said. In previous years, tickets have been donated to each student enrolled

in school at Fort Riley, and he said organizers are considering donating the tickets again.

The shows kicked off April 21 with the first show beginning at 1:30 p.m. The circus performances included routines by clowns, elephants and various animals and acrobats. The dancing dogs were a favorite of Ila Bartoe, whose husband is deployed with the 82nd Medical

Company (Air Ambulance).

"It was a really good circus. I thought it was good for the kids," Bartoe said. "It was cute. It wasn't a typical circus, but it was a good circus. They had an Asian elephant that was really cool."

Profits generated from the circus are used throughout the year to help with the operation and upkeep for the Shriner clubs, Lacey said. Money raised from

fundraisers, such as their mini-wheels and antique car clubs, are donated to the Shriners' Children Hospital. "Mini wheels have donated more than \$62,000 since 1973 to Shriners' Children Hospital," he said.

"The circus was a success. We received a lot of applause when the announcer stated the Soldiers' families were in the audience," he said.

## Style

continued from page 13

Roberts into the gown.

"I didn't spend all semester making this dress for no one to see (it)," Regan said as she hurriedly stitched up the back, her mom standing nearby.

Roberts, who designed an evening gown and a two-piece suit which were also in the show, was instructed, "Don't breathe! Don't bend over!"

Early in the show, Regan said she never got to enjoy the process of making the garment because it was so tedious. She made 40 sketches of the dress, made the pattern by hand, constructed the dress from scratch and made many refittings. It was inspired by a history of costume class Regan had taken.

She is set to graduate in May, and the dress was the first thing she had made from scratch.

"This is my first show before I leave," she said. "I want to show it off."

The temporary stitches stayed in place during the show's KSU fashion segment. Regan watched proudly as Roberts strutted from one end of the stage to the other. Backstage, she snapped photos of the gown.

The show highlighted fashions from Junction City and Manhattan retailers and featured music by DJ Hicks, Hi Point Studios and Addictive Behavior. The event drew about 275 people.

Two personal style segments were included in the show, one featuring audience members and the other featuring the models. More than 40 audience members volunteered to walk across the stage, showing their personal style and attitude.

Spc. Dwayne Allen, BOSS president, was excited so many audience members participated in the personal style portion of the show.

Eleven stylists spent nine hours preparing the models' hair and make up and did touch-ups in the dressing room, said Marilu Rodriguez of Janique's Hair Salon. She said the hair stylists tried to emphasize curls.

This is the second year BOSS joined with Kansas State University's Fashion and Design Department for the show.

## Volunteers

continued from page 13

volunteer efforts by 1st Battalion, 34th Armor. She serves as a Family Care Team Liaison and assists in the training, organization and motivation of team members.

Elliott is known as the "crisis director" of the battalion coffee group where she helps build friendships and camaraderie among battalion spouses, said Army Volunteer Coordinator Becky Willis during the ceremony.

She dedicates many hours to the children of Fort Riley and serves as the Site Council Chairperson for Fort Riley Elementary School.

She is a parent representative on the Calendar Planning Committee for the Geary County School District and works with fourth- and fifth-graders in the Hands on Science Program.

Elliott also started a reading program for young learners who are not reading on grade level, coached youth soccer and is president of the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club.

In honor of her award, Elliott and her family got to leave the ceremony in a 2006 Pontiac G6 from Briggs Auto Center in Manhattan.

During the ceremony, Russ Briggs, owner of the auto center

presented the car keys to Elliott. She gets to drive the car for 60 days.

In the youth volunteer category, Osterman-Bailey was nominated by Youth Army Community Services. During the ceremony, Briggs presented her with a \$100 savings bond from Briggs Auto Center.

Osterman-Bailey volunteered in the Relocation Readiness Program at Army Community Service, performing administrative duties that included binding SITES booklets, shredding, making copies and reviewing material contained in an information resource guide that was given to incoming families.

Osterman-Bailey also spent much of her volunteer time in the ACS lending closet, where she helped pack up discontinued items, reorganized shelves, dusted, swept, mopped and unwrapped new equipment to be put away on new shelving that she helped paint.

She also volunteered with the American Red Cross and volunteers by helping friends in her community.

The following awards were presented:

### Volunteers

April Sankey – Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club  
Amy McCauley – Fort Riley chapels

Mary Bonneau – American Red Cross  
Heather Gowens – Girl Scouts  
Jessica Gamez – Enlisted Spouses' Club

Kathy Alvarez – Army Community Service  
Joanne Reighter – Ware Elementary School  
Rhonda Lysinger – Historical and Archeological Society  
Melissa Root – Fort Riley Elementary School  
Alma Gutierrez – 2nd Battalion, 291st Regiment

Portia Young – 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support)  
Tracy Thiel – 97th Military Police Battalion  
Stacy Vargo – 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry

Sharon Milton – 1st Engineer Battalion  
Debby Elliott – 1st Battalion, 34th Armor

Michelle Archer – 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery  
Debi Creed – 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor

Jennifer Westbrook – 101st Forward Support Battalion  
Tobi Hamilton – 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor  
Melinda Whitney – 70th Engi-

neer Battalion  
Rhonda Lysinger – 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery  
Susan Nakasone – Military Council of Catholic Women

Amy Morgan – Child and Youth Services  
Elizabeth Wilson – Protestant Women of the Chapel  
Sonja Colbert – 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Margaret Reinhardt – 125th Forward Support Battalion  
LeAnn Konken – 1st Battalion, 13th Armor

### Youth Nominees for Youth Volunteer of Year:

Shontay Osterman-Bailey – Youth ACS  
Christian Pagan – Youth CYS  
Stephanie Nolan – Youth HASFR  
Jessica Cameron – Youth American Red Cross

### Mayors, Assistant Mayors:

Monika Krpan – Assistant Mayor, Petersen Heights  
Wendy Demas – Assistant Mayor, Ellis Heights  
Crystal Cavalier – Assistant Mayor, Burnside Loop

Kim Jackson – Mayor, Ellis Heights North  
Jodi Sackman – Assistant Mayor, Main Post East  
Jennifer Sutter – Mayor, Main Post East

Chelsea Trujillo – Assistant Mayor, McClellan Loop  
Amy Scarpulla – Assistant Mayor, Warner Heights South  
Beatrice Bacon – Mayor, Colyer Manor East

Teri Cobb – Assistant Mayor, Colyer Manor West  
Loni Coy – Mayor, Petersen Heights  
Delissa Fowler – Mayor, Burnside Heights

Christina Martin – Mayor, Warner Heights South  
Raquel Nylen – Mayor, Monteth O'Donnell Heights

Natasha Ricks – Assistant Mayor, Warner Heights North  
Sarah Rinella – Mayor, Meade Heights  
Jennel Rowe – Mayor, McClellan Heights

Patti Walker – Mayor, Colyer Manor West

### Helping Hands Award (to non-military volunteers):

Kelly and Gail Frakes  
Dr. Casey L. Thomas

## Mumps

continued from page 13

headache, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

When mumps involves the testicles, the doctor may prescribe stronger medications for pain and swelling and provide instructions on how to apply warm or cool packs to soothe the area and how to provide extra support for the testicles.

The mumps virus is contagious and spreads in tiny drops of fluid from the mouth and nose of someone who is infected. It can be passed to others through

sneezing, coughing or even laughing.

The virus can also spread to other people through direct contact, such as picking up tissues or using drinking glasses that have been used by the infected person. Family members should wash their hands after each contact with the child who has mumps.

People who have mumps are most contagious from two days before symptoms begin to six days after they end. The virus also can spread from people who

are infected but have no symptoms.

Mumps can be prevented by vaccination. The vaccine can be given alone or as part of the measles-mumps-rubella immunization usually given to children at 12 to 15 months of age.

A second dose of MMR is generally given at 4 to 6 years of age, but should be given no later than 11 to 12 years of age.

If you think that your child has mumps, call your child's doctor. Monitor and record your child's

temperature. You can use non-aspirin fever medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) to bring down a fever.

These medicines also will help relieve pain in the swollen parotid glands.

You also can soothe your child's swollen parotid glands with either warm or cold packs. Serve a soft, bland diet that does not require a lot of chewing and encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids.

Avoid serving tart or acidic

fruit juices (like orange juice, grapefruit juice or lemonade) that make parotid pain worse. Water, decaffeinated soft drinks and tea are better tolerated.

A child with mumps doesn't need to stay in bed and may play quietly. Ask your doctor about the best time for your child to return to school.

For more information, call the Irwin Army Community Hospital's Nurse Advice Line at 239-DOCS or contact your primary care clinic.

BUDGET BLINDS OF MID-AMERICA  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
2x2 Budget Blinds

CHANGING TIMES BOUTIQUE  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
2x2 CTB Apr TP

W O W - WORK OUT WOMEN  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
2X2 WOM \$12 Sign Up Post. Ad

SCREEN MACHINE  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
2X2 Screen Machine Apr TP

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
2X2 1st South Baptist

SCRAP ZONE  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
2X2 Scrap Zone 4/28

ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL  
2 x 4'  
Black Only  
2x4 Kindergarten Round up

CHRISTIAN BOOKS & GIFTS  
2 x 4'  
Black Only  
2x4 CBG Come Meet

EYECARE ASSOCIATES OF MANHATTAN  
2 x 4'  
Black Only  
2x4 Eyecare Assoc







# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, April 28, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

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## Sports news in brief

### Outdoorsmen group to meet

The Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. May 9 at the Conservation Office on post.

The guest speaker will be Rick Dykstra, assistant director of the Geary County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Dykstra brought several big-name fishing tournaments to Milford Lake over the past couple of years and will speak primarily about fishing opportunities off-post. Information will also be available for fishing on-post.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 239-6069.

### Jaycees slate softball tourney

The Jaycees will host an all-night softball showdown from 8 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 27-28 at North Park in Junction City.

Teams can pick up registration forms in Junction City at Central National Bank, Wal-Mart, Screen Machine Sports at 115 E. Seventh St., Dick Edwards Auto at 375 Grant Ave. and KJCK Platinum Broadcasting at U.S. Highway 77 and Ash Street.

For more information, call (785) 761-436 or send e-mail to JunctionCityJaycees@yahoo.com.

### Personal trainer comes to post

A personal trainer is available by appointment for exercise sessions at King Field House.

A 60-minute session costs \$20. A 90-minute session for two people costs \$30.

To set up an appointment, call 313-3165.

### Golf course events listed

**May 4** - Staff Judge Advocates Law Day Golf Tournament

**May 4** - K-State Recreation Society Annual Golf Tournament

For more information, call 784-6000.

### Youth can show off skills

The U.S. Tennis Association Rapid Rally Tennis portion of the Jr. Olympic Skills Competition will be hosted by Fort Riley Youth Sports on April 29 at the Main Post Tennis Courts. Youth ages 8 through 13 may participate and can register the day of the event.

Champions from this Local Qualifying Event will advance to one of the Regional Competitions across the country in hopes of advancing to the National Finals.

For more information, call Fort Riley Youth Sports at 239-9223.

### Youth camps scheduled

A youth basketball camp is scheduled July 17-24, a soccer camp July 31 through Aug. 4 and a volleyball camp Aug. 7-11. The cost of each camp is \$25 per camper with current Child and Youth Services registration.

For more information, call CYS at 239-4847.

## Generals game may be on TV

By Dustin Kimmel  
The Daily Union

You're sitting in front of the tube, flipping through the many different ESPN channels when what appears on the screen but a plane flying into the Junction City Municipal Airport over a Jun-

ketron in the outfield of Rathert Stadium.

Impossible, right? But it isn't as far-fetched as it sounds. The Junction City Generals, a summer college player team in the Central Plains Baseball League, have applied to ESPN for one of their three games with the U.S. Military All-Stars July 25, 26 or

27 to be televised on the network. ESPN is televising eight games of the All-Stars' Red, White and Blue tour, said Jay Lucas, president of the Central Plains Baseball League. Six of the eight spots have been filled and ESPN is making a decision about the remaining two. ESPN became initially interest-

ed with televising the game because of Junction City's proximity to Fort Riley. A main factor in making the decision will be whether the facilities will be able to accommodate the television crew.

"We are working diligently

See *Generals*, Page 16



## Ride rough



Post file photo

A Fort Riley Soldier tests his off-road riding skill at one of the area's ORV parks.

## Parks cater to off-road riders

Staff report

Three major off-road vehicle parks surround the Fort Riley area: School Creek ORV Park adjacent to Milford Lake and Spillway Cycle Area and Tuttle Creek ORV Area near Tuttle Creek Lake.

Each area offers riders a variety of trails to use.

### School Creek ORV Area

The School Creek ORV Area is about 287 acres of mostly wooded terrain. Located adjacent to Milford Lake, it offers places to set up camp.

The area is restricted to vehicles 50 inches wide or less. Full-size four-wheel drive vehicles and dune buggies are

See *ORV parks*, Page 21

## Post offers safety courses

Post Safety Office

Novice and seasoned riders motorcycle riders at Fort Riley must complete the Motorcycle Defensive Driving Course, All-Terrain and Dirt Bike courses before riding on post. Completion brings riders into compliance with Army regulations and the commanding general's Policy Letter 06-1.

Installation Safety Office offers the Basic Riders Course, Experienced Riders Course, Dirt Bike Rider Course and All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Course at no cost to active duty Soldiers and their family members. Department of the Army civilians, military retirees and U.S.

Army Reserve and U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers working on Fort Riley.

The courses are not open to the general public. The purpose of these courses is to provide attendees with the fundamentals of safe, responsible motorcycle skills that can reduce the risk of death or injury to Army and civilian personnel who operate motorcycles. The ISO staff works closely with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation contractors to ensure quality training is provided.

MSF emphasizes the following five main messages to motorcyclists: Get trained and

See *Courses*, Page 21

## Army wrestlers win U.S. title

### Soldiers capture 8 medals

By Tim Hipps

Army News Service

**LAS VEGAS** - Soldiers won two gold, one silver and five bronze medals as the All-Army wrestling team captured the Greco-Roman title in the 2006 U.S. National Wrestling Championships April 14 and 15 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Staff Sgts. Dremiel Byers and Marcel Cooper won gold medals, and Staff Sgt. Keith Sieracki struck silver as the All-Army team won the Division I Greco-Roman national crown for the fourth time in the past six years.

Byers, 31, a member of the U.S. World Class Athlete Program stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., posted a 3-0, 4-0 victory over New York Athletic Club's Russ Davie in the Greco-Roman 264.5-pound division finale to win his sixth national championship.

"I think after five you look for 10," Byers said. "Right now, I feel like I've got Rulon Gardner's lungs. I'm in great shape. I'm running every day, more than I ever have before. I don't get tired and I don't run hot."

"I'm trying to taper a good wrestling mental psyche to go with these lungs I've got. And it's coming," he said.

Cooper, a former All-Marine wrestler who joined the All-Army Team last year, defeated NYAC's Mike Ellsworth, 2-1, 5-0, to win the Greco-Roman 145.5-pound weight class in his 12th appearance in the national championships.

"I'm dedicating this tourna-

ment to my mom, who passed away last year," said Cooper, 35, who two years ago left his shoes on the mat - wrestling's traditional way of signaling retirement from the sport. He later changed his mind and joined the All-Army team.

The men's national champions earned the No. 1 seeds for the U.S. World Team Trials scheduled for May 27 and 28 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Likewise for the women, whose U.S. World Team Trials are scheduled for June 30 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The winners of those tournaments will earn an opportunity to compete for Team USA in the World Championships Sept. 26 through Oct. 1 in Guangzhou, China.

Sieracki, a four-time national champion and two-time Olympic Trials winner, lost 2-0, 0-2, 4-0 to Gator Wrestling Club's T.C. Dantzer in the Greco-Roman 163-pound finale. After they split the first two periods, Dantzer prevailed on a three-point left and throw with 20 seconds remaining in the deciding stanza.

Top-seeded Sgt. Tina George, a two-time world silver medalist, was upset in the first round of the women's 121-pound freestyle competition when she got pinned in the first minute by Gator Wrestling Club's Leigh Jaynes. George wrestled back through the consolation bracket and atoned for the loss by finishing third with a 2-1, 4-1 victory over Jaynes.

## 'Sarge' confident wins will come

### Eyes Bristol without panic

Army News Service

**BRISTOL, Tenn.** - For almost two weeks now, U.S. Army Top Fuel driver, Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, has been hit with the same question over and over again from media, family and friends alike.

"Everyone keeps asking what's wrong with the U.S. Army team?" said Schumacher, shaking his head. "My answer is simple and to the point - nothing."

Despite having collected three straight first-round losses in final eliminations and falling to ninth place in the standings, the defending NHRA POWERade Top Fuel world champion is not worried as he preps for the O'Reilly Thunder Valley Nationals at Bristol Dragway April 28-30.

"There's no reason to panic," added the Chicago native. "We have a lot of racing left on the schedule and, more importantly, we still have a great race car like in years past. We've just had some bad luck with mechanical issues. Once we get running well again on race day, we'll be writing a ter-

rific comeback story."

While Sundays have not been kind to Schumacher of late, qualifying rounds have continued to generate excitement. In five races, he's banked four poles. Dating back to the 2005 season, he's now totaled 15 poles in 28 events.

"We're continuing to get the job done on Fridays and Saturdays, but we're not carrying that momentum over into race day so far this year," he said. "Again, this U.S. Army team will not quit. We have a mission to complete and that's winning another world title. Trust me, this race car will come around sooner than later and then we'll be fine."

Schumacher is hoping a good run in the O'Reilly Thunder Valley Nationals will be the new beginning that his team has been aching for.

"You've got to start somewhere so why not have it be in Bristol," he offered. "We know we can perform well there."

Schumacher captured the 2004 Bristol race, while setting track records for elapsed time (4.477-seconds) and speed (331.36 mph).





# Generals

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right now ...," said the team's general manager, Karl Carswell. "One of the big things (needed to be considered) is a Jumbotron."

High-speed Internet access, camera bays and a Jumbotron are all prerequisites of the network.

Junction City Assistant City Manager Mike Guinn said renting the Jumbotron from Kansas State University would cost about \$50,000 for three days. The rental includes labor and setup costs.

City Manager Rod Barnes said the city is looking into different ways to fund the project.

"We are certainly trying to accommodate (the requests)," Barnes said. "It would be great publicity for the community."

The city has already spent about \$125,000 on improvements to Rathert Stadium out of a budget of \$150,000, Guinn said.

Carswell said he didn't know when ESPN would make the decision about televising one of the local games.

Opening day for the Generals will be June 2 against the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Grays. The two teams will play three consecutive days at Rathert Stadium. Game time June 2 and 3 will be 7:05 p.m. June 3 game time will be announced.

Admission is \$6 for grandstand seating and \$4 for general admission.

*This article first appeared in the April 20 issue of the Junction City Daily Union and is reprinted with permission of the editor and general manager of that newspaper.*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2 x 5'  
Black Only  
2x5 Our Gift to You

DEVRY UNIVERSITY  
3 x 10.5'  
Black Only  
3x10.5 DeVry

HOUSE  
FILL AD

MANHATTAN ADVERTISING AGENCY  
3 x 3'  
Black Only  
3x3 Manhattan Coup #2

DICK EDWARDS HYUNDAI  
6 x 10.5'  
Black Only  
6x10.5 Dick Ed Hyundai







# Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation

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America's Warfighting Center

Page 17

## Outdoor news briefly

### Bison 'roamed' post corral

In the early 1800s, the American bison were the kings of the plains. They migrated over large tracts of land in search of newly grown grass.

The bison soon fell to the long-range rifles made famous in the late 19th century. For a period of time, the only remaining bison were found on farms and in zoos.

Although the bison would never freely roam the plains again, the species was saved from extinction through careful breeding programs using the few remaining individuals.

Fort Riley was part of the later recovery of the species, housing bison from the early 1950s until the late 1990s. The post's bison herd was a popular visitors attraction for many years. When the herd grew to 58, it was decided to transfer much of the herd to Kansas State University, to be placed on Konza Prairie.

### Fires keep prairie thriving

Today, less than 5 percent of the original tallgrass prairie remains unbroken and in good condition. It is considered by many to be the most endangered ecosystem in North America.

Most of the remaining acres of tallgrass prairie are in the Flint Hills of Kansas and Oklahoma, simply because the ground was too rocky and the soil too shallow to be useful for crop production.

To the east of Fort Riley, most of the remaining tallgrass prairie is found in small hay meadows. States like Missouri have only a few fragments of tallgrass prairie remaining.

Fort Riley is located on the northern edge of the Flint Hills. You can see the characteristic rolling hills on the southern and eastern parts of the installation.

The western part of Fort Riley begins the subtle transition to the Smoky Hills region of Kansas.

Although this area receives enough rainfall to produce an abundance of trees, the occasional wildfire kept the forested areas confined to narrow belts along major streams. There was nothing to stop the fires except for the large rivers and rainfall.

Today, landowners mimic the natural fires by setting prescribed burns in the spring of the year. These fires are critical to keeping the prairies in good condition.

### Some plants cause pain

There is a lot of confusion about poisonous plants and which ones grow on Fort Riley.

Poison ivy is very common on post and can be found just about anywhere.

The true poison oak occurs very rarely in southeast Kansas and does not venture this far west. It is so uncommon, in fact, that poison oak is a state listed species in Missouri.

Poison Sumac is a native to the lowlands of the eastern United States. It is most abundant along streams, floodplains and swampy areas.

If you suspect that you have come into contact with poison ivy, a rash may be potentially avoided by washing the area thoroughly with soap and cool water.

## Wildlife abounds



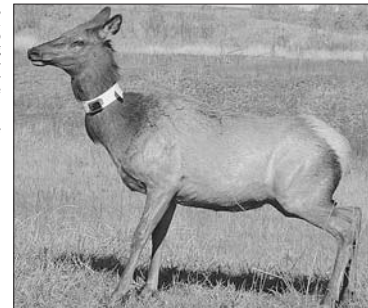
Conservation Division photo

Fort Riley is home to a sizeable herd of elk and a limited number of elk hunting licenses are issued to hunt the post lands each year.



At left and right, an elk is banded at Fort Riley so that the existing herd's population and movements can be monitored.

Post file photos



## Fort Riley known as 'Sportsman's Paradise'

By Alan Hynek

Fish and wildlife biologist

Fort Riley has long been known as the "Sportsman's Paradise" of the Army. The hunting and fishing opportunities on Fort Riley are some of the best around, with plentiful game, liberal seasons and easy access to primary hunting areas.

Excellent opportunities also exist for non-consumptive pursuits as well. Whether it is hiking, horseback riding, outdoor photography or mountain biking, Fort Riley and the surrounding area have many things to offer.

Located between the two largest lakes in Kansas, the Fort Riley area offers exceptional opportunities for hunting and fishing. The fort and its surrounding area afford some of the best locations for upland game birds, including bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant and the greater prairie chicken. Migratory birds hunted on Fort Riley include mourning doves, ducks and geese.

Big game animals hunted on Fort Riley are white-tailed deer, turkey and elk.

The fort's primary mission is to provide a "Warfighting Center" for the Army, but at times, hunting enthusiasts have as much as 71,000 acres available on Fort Riley, and there is almost always some acreage open to hunting activities.

Fishing can be enjoyed on the fort's 29 lakes and ponds, two major rivers and numerous smaller streams, not to mention several nearby state lakes and reservoirs. Whether baiting a hook, casting spinners or tying a fly, there is something in the area for every fisherman.

For those looking for activities other than hunting and fishing, the opportunities are boundless. Take a short hike on the Pet Cemetery Nature Trail or take a walk down to the Kansas River on the First Territorial Capitol Nature Trail. For those into biking, a trip up Engineer Road is a challenge, but it is filled with breathtaking scenery.

There are excellent opportunities for outdoor photography.

Kansas is known for its rich diversity of prairie wildfires and unique wildlife, such as elk and prairie chickens.

Whether you are hunting with a gun or a camera or are hiking, horseback riding or picnicking, remember there are certain procedures that you must follow when you use the installation for recreation. These restrictions have been established to ensure that neither you nor the installation's mission is jeopardized by your use of the installation for recreation.

Many things have changed on this post over the years, but one mainstay has always been an abundance of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. It really is no coincidence that Fort Riley is known as one of the premier hunting and fishing installations within the Army. Fort Riley has become known as a destination for outdoor activity.

For more information about outdoor recreation on Fort Riley, call (785) 239-6211 or stop by the Conservation Office, Building 1020, during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.





# Laws, regulations govern activities

By Alan Hynke

Fish and wildlife biologist

Fort Riley offers an array of outdoor recreational opportunities. However, there are certain procedures you must follow in order to stay safe and keep on the right side of the law.

If you are new to the area and interested in hunting or fishing on post, the following is a good start. For those of us who have been around here a while, an occasional refresher is always a good idea. There also are a number of recent significant changes to Fort Riley Regulation 210-15 to know about.

First and foremost, the Fort Riley Military Reservation or portions of it may be closed at anytime without prior notice because of military activities or impassable roads.

Outdoor recreation is allowed for military members and civilians when compatible with the military mission.

## Open Areas:

The areas open for recreation are updated each Monday and Thursday, but can also change on short notice. September through January and during the spring turkey seasons (April 12 to May 31), the open areas are posted at each of the 10 hunter check stations, on the 24-hour Hotline and on the Fort Riley Web page.

At all other times, the open areas are posted on the Internet site and on the 24-hour hotline.

Open Shotgun Areas are available for shotgun hunting with shot-shell or smaller, muzzleloader, fishing and other non-consumptive outdoor recreation.

Open Rifle Hunting Areas are open for the aforementioned activities plus centerfire rifle hunting.

Open fuel wood areas are open for cutting in areas prescribed by the Conservation Office.

Individuals holding appropriate licenses and permits may recreate in any open area on Fort Riley. Use of firearms south of Vinton School Road is restricted to Department of Defense identification card-holders and their guests.

## Hunter Check Stations:

Each person hunting game animals must register before hunting each day at one of 10 hunter check stations. Daily registration is a two-part process that is completed by filling out Part One of the form and depositing it into the locked box at the check station, then filling out Part Two upon completion of the hunt.

You must keep part two with you while hunting.

You do not need to return to the same check station at which you deposited Part One. Remember, each person must complete a separate Daily Registration Form each day.

All others using the installation for recreation do not need to register.

## Hunter Orange:

During the Fort Riley firearms deer season, all individuals must wear the following safety clothing, which must be colored a blaze (international) orange: a cap or hat and an outer cover of either a coat, vest, sweater, coveralls or shirt.

The outer cover must have at least 100 square inches of blaze orange colored surface visible on the front and 100 square inches of colored surface on the back.

Upland game, small game and spring turkey hunters, as defined by the State of Kansas, must wear an outer cover of at least 100 square inches of hunter orange surface visible on the front and 100 square inches of colored surface on the back and a hunter orange cap at all times while moving on foot or while riding any animal in any area open to hunting.

## Firearms Registration:

All firearms must be registered before being brought onto the installation. Soldiers stationed at Fort Riley must register them with their unit's arm room. Others may register their firearms at the Provost Marshal's Office, Building 221, or the Conservation Office.

## Hunting and Fishing Permits and Licenses:

A Fort Riley Hunting Permit is required for hunting on post in addition to all appropriate state and federal tags, stamps and permits.

Persons 15 and younger or 65 and older are not required to possess a Fort Riley Hunting Permit. The cost of Fort Riley Hunting Permit is \$16 but will increase to \$25 in 2007.

A Kansas Fishing License is required to fish anywhere on post and a Kansas Trout Stamp is

required if you are actively fishing for trout in Moon Lake between Oct. 15 and April 15. There is no installation permit required to fish on Fort Riley.

## Hunter Educational Requirements:

The hunter education policy on Fort Riley now follows that of the state of Kansas. Anyone hunting on Fort Riley must comply with Kansas regulations regarding hunter education.

Any individual born before July 1, 1957, is exempt from having to have hunter education in Kansas. Kansas now allows anyone 15 years old and younger to hunt without hunter education certification provided they are under direct supervision of an adult 18 or older.

In addition to the Kansas regulations, Fort Riley regulations state no one under 16 years of age may hunt unless accompanied by an adult who is 18 years of age or older and has completed the state of Kansas Hunter Education Requirement or is exempt from such requirement.

Army regulations require that all hunters carry proof of completing a certified Hunter Education Course before hunting on any Army lands. Hunter Education Courses taken in other states are valid.

## Shooting Limitations:

Firearms shall not be fired within 200 meters of any building, body of troops or restricted area or from or across any improved road. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 meters of any improved road.

Handguns are allowed for hunting purposes on Fort Riley in areas that are open for rifle hunting and as allowed in FR 210-15 and in accordance with Kansas hunting regulations.

Target shooting is not allowed on Fort Riley except at the Privately Owned Weapons Range.

## Tree Stands:

Construction and/or use of "permanent" tree stands are prohibited on Fort Riley. A "permanent" tree stand is defined as any stand that is fastened to a tree by nails, screws, spikes or similar penetrating objects.

Portable tree stands are permitted. All components of portable tree stands (including wire, chain, rope or other material used to fasten the stand to the tree) may be placed in the tree no sooner than 30 days before the season of use and must be removed from the tree within 30 days of the completion of that season.

Use of nails, screws, spikes or similar penetrating objects as "steps" or "ladders" to access portable tree stands is prohibited.

## Off Road Vehicles:

Two- and four-wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles are prohibited for recreational use on Fort Riley. In addition, all motorized vehicles are restricted to established trails and hard surfaces. Off-road travel is strictly prohibited.

## Recreational Vehicle Marker:

All vehicles being used for recreational activities on Fort Riley must display an Outdoor Recreational Vehicle Marker. These may be picked up at any Hunter Check Station, the Conservation Office and the Outdoor Recreation Center. There is no charge for the vehicle marker.

## Other Changes:

Taking of other reptiles, chelonians and amphibians is limited to personal possession limits prescribed by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and no more than one individual representative of each species.

No one under 16 may hunt unless accompanied by an adult who is 18 years of age or older and has completed the state of Kansas Hunter Education Requirement or is exempt from such requirement.

All areas north of Vinton School Road will be closed to recreational activities from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise the following morning, except during the firearms deer season and by approval of the Directorate of Public Works Conservation and Restoration Branch chief.

Unloaded firearms may not be transported within immediate reach of the vehicle's occupants. For the purpose of this regulation, behind the seat of a vehicle or in the back seat of a vehicle is considered out of reach. Ammunition must be transported separately from the firearms in a separate container.



Conservation Office Photo

The Republican River meanders along the boundary of Fort Riley, joining with the Smoky Hill River to form the Kaw River.

# Fort Riley history linked to Kaw River headwaters

By Alan Hynke

Fish and wildlife biologist

The history of Fort Riley is well documented with its history beginning at the headwaters of the Kaw River. Camp Center as it was named was the initial encampment at the confluence of the Republican and Smokey Hill Rivers. A surveying party selected the location as a military outpost used as protection for travelers along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. They believed the site to be near the center of the U.S., hence the name. Later the name of the encampment was changed to Fort Riley.

The Republican River begins its journey from just southeast of Denver Colorado. The north fork and south fork of the Republican come together in extreme northeast Colorado. Then the river takes a swing through Nebraska, where it picks up tributaries like the Frenchman and Redwillow. By the time the river makes it to the confluence with the Smokey Hill River, it has been impounded twice and has covered three states.

Like the Republican, the Smokey Hill River begins its journey in Eastern Colorado, but takes a more direct route. Western Kansas tributaries like the Solomon and Saline Rivers join the Smokey Hill along the way. The mainstem and its tributaries are impounded several times in western and central Kansas before

## Want more information?

For more information on the Kaw River, visit the Conservation Office, Building 1020, call 239-6211 or visit the Fort Riley Web site at [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources/](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources/).

reaching the headwaters of the Kaw River.

Where the Smokey Hill and Republican Rivers come together begins the journey of the largest river entirely in Kansas (the Missouri is bigger, but is only partially in Kansas). The stretch of the Kaw River on Fort Riley may be the prettiest and least altered over its entire length. There are very few places where you can find mature mixed hardwood timber like that near the Territorial Capital or the large floodplain forest to the west of Marshal Army Airfield. Although the meandering river looks peaceful and relaxing, the physical scars from past floods are still apparent and forever etched in the minds of those who experienced the awesome power of the river firsthand.

The 1951 flood was by far the highest in recorded history. It produced an amazing 400,000 cubic feet per second of water

volume. By comparison, the 1993 flood produced just under half that at 199,000 cfs. There are still many folks around here that remember the 1993 flood and its effect on Fort Riley and the surrounding communities. It is hard to imagine what twice the volume would have been like.

For the most part, the mightiest river in Kansas has been tamed. It is no longer allowed to meander and change course, with the flow being regulated by several large reservoirs. Even with the many flood control structures, the usually tranquil Kaw and its tributaries can still unleash its power, reminding us that Mother Nature is still in charge.

Although we don't think much about the big river most of the time, it certainly has a daily effect on our lives. The Kaw River is a major source of drinking water for several cities and provides irrigation water for many farmers. It is also important to many species of wildlife, particularly to those that require specific habitat created by the river. One of those, the bald eagle, has come to symbolize the importance of the confluence on Fort Riley. The wintering roost found here has become one of the largest in the continental U.S., where as many as 400 eagles have been documented at one time. It is also no less important to many species of migratory birds that use the river in the spring and fall and to the indigenous wildlife that make the Kaw River valley home.

# Mountain lions in Kansas? Myths, legends abound

By Alan Hynke

Fish and wildlife biologist

The debate continues. Are there wild mountain lions in Kansas? If not, then what are all the reported sightings? These questions have gone on for many years, not only in Kansas but all over in the Midwest. There seems to be no shortage of myths and legends surrounding these big cats. If you have lived in Kansas for very long, you probably know someone who has claimed to see one. On one hand, if all of the stories were true, why is there no solid proof? On the other hand, there are a fair number of witnesses, which by all accounts, should know what they have seen.

Mountain lions (also known as cougars or pumas) are large, slender cats with a small head and a long, heavy tail. They may weigh up to 150 pounds and are normally tan to orange in color. Mountain lions prefer dense vegetation and will rely on wooded riparian areas for travel. Young males have been known to move up to 400 miles in search of an area not already inhabited by another mountain lion. An established territory may be 100 square miles or more (about two-thirds the size of Fort Riley).

Little is known about the habits of mountain lions in the Great

Plains. Records indicate that they with resident populations in Kansas and were even common in some parts of the state. They seemed to be most abundant in the rugged Red Hills and Chautauqua Hills area of south central Kansas. The last confirmed mountain lion in Kansas was taken in 1904 in Ellis County. Deer make up about 80 percent of their diet and mountain lions may kill up to one per day. They have also been found to consume rats, rabbits, coyotes and bobcats. One strange item on their menu is a particular fondness for porcupines.

Wild individuals have been documented recently in states that border Kansas. The closest recent sighting was in 2000 in Howard County, Neb., about 200 miles north of Fort Riley. There have been 11 confirmed mountain lion sightings in Nebraska since the early 1990s, mostly in the western part of the state. In five of those cases, the animal was either shot or found dead. The most recent sighting was from a trail master camera set up to take pictures near a deer feeder. Imagine the surprise that hunter had when those pictures were developed.

The state of Missouri has had five confirmed sightings of free ranging mountain lions since 1994. Prior to that, the last confirmation was in 1927. Unlike

Nebraska, which borders states with resident populations, the cats found in Missouri are a bit of a mystery. The closest known resident population to Missouri is in Texas. It is unclear of the origin of the Missouri cats, although it is a possibility that at least some were captive animals turned loose. Most of the documented sightings in Missouri have been in the southern part of the state near Arkansas.

Considering the recent sightings in surrounding states, it is probably just a matter of time before a mountain lion is confirmed in Kansas. Some things we do know however, are that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is not in the business of releasing mountain lions in the state, despite the tenacity of this urban legend. Another is the occasional black panther story. Such black cats do exist in the wild, but are melanistic phases of jaguars and leopards.

While it is unlikely that a mountain lion resides in the Fort Riley area, it certainly is a possibility. The one thing that is more rare than mountain lions is proof. If in fact you do find possible evidence, contact the Directorate of Environment and Safety Conservation Office, 239-6211, or stop by building 1020.







# Rivers, streams team with fish

By Gibran Suleiman  
Fish and wildlife biologist

Most Fort Riley anglers are familiar with the fishing opportunities provided by the installation's 29 fishable ponds. However, many overlook the potential that Fort Riley's 145 miles of streams and rivers have to offer.

The best potential for game fish can be found on the fort's three major rivers, the Republican, Smokey Hill and Kansas. The flow in the Republican River is determined by the amount of water that Milford reservoir is releasing. During times of low flow, fish will congregate in the deeper pools.

Channel and flathead catfish, white bass, wipers, walleye and even large and smallmouth bass can be found in the Republican. The clear water and shallow stretches of water make the Republican River a prime spot to bow fish for nonpoint fish.

Bow fishing is permitted on Fort Riley in the Republican, Smokey Hill and Kansas Rivers and in Funston Lake. It also is permitted at Marshall Lake when it is full and in the Whiteside oxbow of the Kansas River.

All state regulations for fishing are in effect on Fort Riley. Trot lines, limb lines, bank lines or any type of seine can be used in the Kansas, Republican and Smokey Hill Rivers. They also can be used in Wildcat, Madison and Timber Creeks.

The Republican River also supports a large number of rough fish, including carp and drum. Unlike the Republican, the waters of the Kansas and Smokey Hill Rivers normally run fairly turbid, making live bait one of the preferred methods for fishing.

Anglers fishing these waters might end up catching a shovel-nose sturgeon, which is a unique looking fish, to say the least. Sturgeons can be caught throughout the spring and summer by fishing worms on the bottom of the stream.

The majority of streams on Fort Riley are too small to support populations of game fish. Wildcat

## Want more information?

For more information, contact the Conservation Branch at 239-6211 or visit the office in Building 1020.

creek on the eastern side of the post does support healthy populations of catfish and bass. This creek consists of an alternating pattern of pools and riffles. Quality-sized catfish can be caught in the large pools, especially near woody debris where riffles enter the pools.

Largemouth and spotted bass are relatively common in most stretches of Wildcat Creek. A 15-inch length limit is in effect for black bass. Sections of Wind Creek also contain good numbers of largemouth bass.

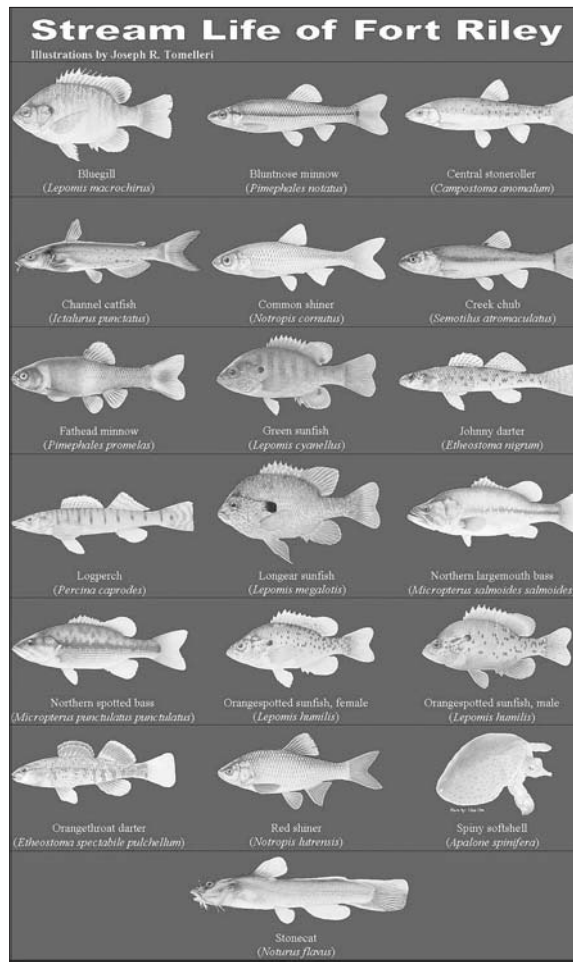
For those wanting to pursue more exotic fair, Fort Riley has an abundance of turtles, bullfrogs and crayfish. A Kansas fishing or combination license and a Fort Riley fishing license are required to take turtles and frogs, and all state regulations apply on Fort Riley.

Snapping and soft-shelled turtles are the only species allowed for taking on Fort Riley. There is no season for turtles, and the daily limit is eight. Turtle traps can be set postwide.

No permits are required to seine for crayfish, but seining is only allowed in training areas west of U.S. Highway 77 and in all impoundments and rivers.

Bullfrog season extends from July 1 through Oct. 31, with the daily limit being eight. Bullfrogs can be taken postwide but may not be taken with a bow from Breakneck, Moon or Cameron Springs ponds.

Fishing flowing waters can provide a nice change to pond fishing. The chance of catching a very large fish like flathead catfish and carp drastically increases when fishing rivers.



# Weather lore can be fun, but also backed by fact

By Alan Hynes  
Fish and wildlife biologist

"A rainbow in the morning is the sailor's warning; a rainbow at night is the sailor's delight."

Old-time weather lore has been around for centuries in this country, with much of its history dating back to Native Americans and Old World sayings. But how much of it can be trusted?

Surprisingly, many of these old tales can be backed up by scientific fact. Take the verse mentioned at the beginning of this article, for example. Rainbows are formed by clear sunlight refracting from very moist air around storm clouds or water molecules. A rainbow appears in the part of the sky opposite the sun. Because our weather moves from west to east, a rainbow in the morning (in the west) means that the storm is approaching from the west. A rainbow in the east (evening) means that the storm has already gone east.

Many tales of animal and insect weather lore also turn out to be quite true. One of my favorite weather forecasters is the common black cricket. Most of us have heard their persistent chirp, but did you know that an accurate temperature reading could be derived from this insect. All you do is count the number of chirps the cricket makes in 15 seconds, and add 37 to the number to get the correct temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (30 chirps plus 37 equals 67 degrees). It takes a little practice but the method is amazingly accurate.

One usually accurate sign of a change in weather is when cattle and horses crowd together, most often in the corner furthest from the storm. Also, dogs seem to be more active and bark more before an approaching weather front. This can be explained from the sharp drop in air pressure and increase in humidity before a storm, which could account for the restlessness of pets; smells are stronger and sound travels farther. This increase in sounds and scents could explain why many dogs seem to bark more before a storm. The dog might hear other dogs at a greater distance or smell more things they may want to chase. The changing wind direction before a storm could also bring new sounds and smells.

Frogs and toads are also more active and visible when the humidity increases with an approaching storm. There's an old saying: "If frogs come out of their holes in large numbers, it will rain soon." There's also a saying: "If tree frogs call during a rain, the wet weather will stay for a while."

Some animals are said to predict the quality of a coming season by their den or nest building habits. If a crawfish builds up mounds around their holes, it's a sign of a hot summer. If they don't, it's a sign of a wet summer. Hornets are also said to be good predictors of the quality of a coming winter. If they build their nest high, the winter is supposed to be a difficult one. Low hornets nests are supposed to indicate a mild winter.

Besides animals and insects, many humans say they can feel a change of weather in their bones. These sayings too, have some scientific backing. All fluid bodies are affected by the increased humidity and decreased air pressure caused by an advancing storm, including humans. Since much of our bodies is made up of water molecules, we too are sensitive to external pressures and changes caused by the weather.

This is even more so the case with conditions like arthritis or bursitis. Those who suffer from sinus problems can also feel these changes. Swollen veins in the nasal passage cause most sinus problems, and the rate at which they expand depends partly on external air conditions.

# Conservation protects endangered species

## Bald eagles, Topeka shiners, Henslow's sparrow, prairie chicken still thrive

By Gibran Suleiman  
Fish and wildlife biologist

Although Fort Riley is best known as "America's Warfighting Center," it also is home to a rich diversity of plants and wildlife. While some species are incredibly abundant, some species have suffered significant population declines.

Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act placed added responsibility on all federal agencies in ensuring that they help with the goal of recovery for listed species. Fort Riley is home to four such species. Two of these are commonly found on post: the bald eagle and the Topeka shiner.

The Topeka shiner looks pretty much like most minnows commonly found on Fort Riley.

They are typically found in prairie streams that have high water quality and are kept cool from groundwater input and overhead trees. Two things that they definitely don't like are streams with a lot of silt and streams with a lot of larger predatory fish.

Many streams in the Midwest have become unsuitable for this fish due to various land uses on the watershed, or direct alteration of the stream itself from channeling it or dredging gravel.

Topeka shiners have been documented in Wildcat, Little Arkansas, Wind, Honey and Seven-mile Creeks on Fort Riley. Together, these streams drain the eastern half of the installation. Wildcat Creek by far has the largest population of Topeka shiners.

Fort Riley's management objective for the Topeka shiner is relatively simple: To protect individual Topeka shiners and their associated habitat. This is accomplished in several ways.

The Conservation Branch monitors existing populations and also looks for previously unknown populations. Any project or train-

ing that has the potential to adversely impact the Topeka shiner must first be reviewed to minimize any potential impacts.

In addition, several projects have been completed to improve the water quality in streams that might have Topeka shiners in them. One of the most obvious is the hardened low water crossings found throughout the training areas.

Another project undertaken was planting grass filter strips along the firebreak break fields along Wildcat Creek. Due to Fort Riley's conservation efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granted Fort Riley an exclusion of Critical Habitat designation for this particular species. By receiving this exclusion, it has saved the Army both time and money when reviewing projects that could impact the Topeka shiner.

The bald eagle is a common winter resident on Fort Riley. The first eagles typically appear on Fort Riley in mid-to-late-October and increase in numbers to about mid-January. The majority of eagles will have vacated the fort by the middle of March.

In recent years, there have been two pairs of eagles that have nested on or near Fort Riley. These eagles are in the area year round. Bald eagles have a strong association with water and are most likely found around Milford Lake and the Kansas and Republican Rivers. Eagles spend their days looking for dead or dying fish and ducks.

Adult birds have powerful wings and are capable of flying holding a four-pound animal. Eagles will also occasionally dine on road-killed animals.

During the winter, eagles spend the night in communal roosting areas. The main roosting area on Fort Riley is one of the largest wintertime roosts in the entire country. In recent years, 380 eagles were recorded using the area in just one night.

The roost area is utilized increasingly as the weather worsens. The colder and windier the night, the more eagles are typically found on the roost. The Conservation Branch has established buffers around eagle roosting areas in order to minimize any disturbance to eagles on Fort Riley.

The use of DDT, direct, killing and habitat loss caused the bald eagle to be listed under the endangered species act in 1967. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires all Federal agencies to insure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize a listed species or destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Section 7 has the potential to place a great burden on the military mission.

On Fort Riley, there is very little overlap between the habitat favored by eagle and training lands needed for training, so having eagles on Fort Riley has caused very little problems for the military.

Today the bald eagle is considered a success story of the ESA. Eagle numbers have become strong enough that it is likely they will be de-listed from the ESA. Currently, if the bald eagle is de-listed, they will still be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Current threats to eagles today are: Illegal shooting, electrocution from power lines, ingestion of meat with poison (intended for coyotes) or lead pellets in dead animals and collision with man-made objects, such as radio towers or wires.

Of all of the birds that can be viewed on Fort Riley, none of them conjure up the same feelings one gets watching a bald eagle soaring high in the sky. It then becomes easy to see why it was chosen has the national symbol of our country. The bald eagle even beat out Benjamin Franklin's vote

for the wild turkey.

If you get a chance to view eagles, be sure to keep a good distance between yourself and them. They are very sensitive to disturbance and will leave an area if repeatedly bothered. A great opportunity to learn about bald eagles and view them is at the Milford Nature Center's annual Eagle Days. It is held every Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

To date Fort Riley has had very little impact to training and operations due to the presence of federally listed species on the installation. One of the biggest factors contributing to this is that there has not been species documented on post that primarily live on the prairie fields that blanket the maneuvers areas.

Unfortunately, this could change in the future because many prairie species of birds, plants and insects continue to face substantial declines in their numbers and associated habitat.

The Nature Conservancy considers the tallgrass prairie to be one of the most threatened habitats in the United States. Some species of particular concern for

Fort Riley are the Henslow's sparrow, greater prairie chicken, the regal fritillary butterfly and the prairie mole cricket.

In 1998, the Henslow's sparrow was petitioned for federal listing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ruled that listing was not warranted at that time, citing Fort Riley's strong population as one of the reasons not to list it.

The Conservation Division spends a tremendous amount of time trying to manage Fort Riley's prairie in a manner conducive to grassland species. Prescriptions such as burning, tree removal and noxious weed control are vital to maintaining a healthy prairie.

More recently, Fort Riley has been looking off the installation to find possible ways in which the Army can help surrounding landowners provide quality habitat for sensitive grassland species.

By helping to keep the surrounding privately owned land around Fort Riley in tallgrass prairie, we are helping grassland species and the training mission by lessening the impacts from encroachment of houses and other developments.

The Henslow's sparrow population at Fort Riley has helped keep off the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's endangered species list. Conservation Division photo





# Facts debunk myths of urban legends

By Alan Hynek

Fish and wildlife biologist

Urban legends abound in rural America, just as the do in large cities. Wildlife legends are no exception.

Some are based on theories that are biologically untrue. Others are steeped in a deep-seated conspiracy theory that is hard to break.

They make a great story but do nothing to help educate the public about wildlife resources. In many ways they do harm.

Here are a few myths, their origins and some rationale as to why they are untrue:

**Myth: Throwing rice at weddings is harmful to birds.**

This claim has been around for 10 years or so and was reinforced by an Ann Landers column a few years back claiming that rice will expand in a bird's stomach and cause them to "blow up" and die.

Sounds awful, doesn't it? But have you ever seen any exploding birds after a wedding? It never happens.

In fact, birds are often big pests in rice fields. Some rice farmers may wish the pesky birds would explode, but they never do.

Uncooked, milled rice is no more harmful to birds than is rice in the field. Rice does not make birds bloat and die.

The irony in this is that a common alternative to rice is the release of balloons, which is a documented danger to wildlife.

Rice does present a danger to humans, not to birds. Scattered on a hard surface, such as the steps of a church or a dance floor, rice puts anyone who walks across that surface at risk of taking a nasty spill.

It is far better to prohibit rice throwing at a wedding than to end up with an injured guest, but don't do it for the birds, do it for the laws.

**Myth: Water moccasins can be found in Kansas.**

It is true that cottonmouths (commonly referred to as water moccasins) are found in Kansas. However, these snakes have only been naturally found in the Spring River in Cherokee County in extreme southeastern Kansas.

A few were deliberately released in the Verdigris River in Montgomery County, which is also in the southeastern corner of the state. However, none of those released snakes have been seen since 1970.

Cottonmouths are found in warmer climates of the southeastern United States. The fact that some were released but perished in the Verdigris River is a good indication of why they are not found in the Fort Riley vicinity.

The weather and habitat to the north and west of Cherokee County is just too inhospitable for cottonmouths to survive. Even Cherokee County is in the extreme northwestern range for these snakes and very few inhabit the area.

Cottonmouths have an irritable disposition and their proximity to water puts them at odds with recreationists. However, very few people are actually bitten by these snakes.

Northern water snakes are most likely the cause of confusion in Kansas. These snakes inhabit areas in and around water and are heavily bodied and aggressive, much like a cottonmouth. Northern water snakes bite but are not venomous.

**Myth: Large Volkswagen-size catfish lurk at the bottom of Tuttle Creek Lake.**

This one has been around for as long as the Corps of Engineers began building large earthen dams

## Want more information?

For more information, contact the Conservation Division at 239-6211 or visit our Web site at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources>.

on our rivers. How big catfish can actually get is widely disputed, but the world record is 123 lbs, which was caught near Independence, Kan.

It is true that a flathead could get somewhat larger than that, but the potential for a man-eater at the base of Tuttle Creek dam is quite a stretch.

**MYTH: Turkeys eat young quail.**

This is a recent legend that has spread like wildfire. The story goes that someone found some ingested quail in the stomach of a harvested turkey.

There is one big problem with this story. Either the hunter shot the turkey out of season, or the story is completely false. Turkey

season occurs at least a month before quail begin to rear young.

It is true that a turkey could eat a young quail, but there has never been any proof that it has happened in the wild.

Some studies were done in which domestic turkeys were put in a pen with young quail and some of them were eaten.

However, extensive video studies of quail nests in the wild have not revealed a single instance of turkey depredation on quail, even with a high population of turkeys.

The origin of this legend likely comes from the fact that the turkey population exploded in this area at about the same time quail numbers started to decline. The decline in quail numbers is not fully understood, but there is no evidence pointing to turkeys eating quail as the culprit.

**Myth: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks released some mountain lions to control the deer population.**

This legend likely has more to do with people looking for a good conspiracy theory than actually making any sense.

The story goes that KDWP (and other states) have been secretly releasing radio-tracked

mountain lions in an attempt to keep the deer herd in check.

This story really has a lot of problems.

First, for any release of that magnitude there would have to be public hearings and a release of information similar to the gray wolves being reintroduced in Yellowstone National Park.

Second, why would KDWP even do such a thing? Deer hunting likely produces more income in permit sales and tourism to the state than any other wildlife. With money as tight as it is, why would they jeopardize one of their most income-producing resources?

The second part to this story is of a local hunter or farmer shooting a mountain lion and putting it in his freezer. Within minutes a conservation officer met him at the door asking to see the mountain lion.

Supposedly the animal was affixed with a radio tracking device implanted in its ear.

First, the technology to have a transmitter that small with a kind of range has not yet been developed. And, if it had, the cost would be extraordinary. Standard tracking devices require a sizable battery that would be impossible to implant.



Conservation Division photo

**Freshwater mussels abound in Kansas waters. Some have descriptive names, such as the Monkeyface, Pimpleback and Fat Mucket.**

## 41 mussel species inhabit Kansas

By Alan Hynek

Fish and wildlife biologist

Monkeyface, Pimpleback and Fat Mucket are colorful names for three of 41 species of mussels native to Kansas.

Freshwater mussels are frequently overlooked as native wildlife in Kansas. However, the roles they play in our aquatic systems are very important and equally as interesting. Some species can be found throughout the entire state, while others are limited to specific drainages.

As with most plants and wildlife, the diversity of mussels is greater in eastern Kansas than in the west. The Neosho River, which starts at Council Grove, is the only river in the state where all 41 species can be found.

Mussels are an important component of the aquatic community. They constantly filter water, making them excellent indicators of aquatic health. A large mussel like the heelsplitter can filter up to a gallon of water in a day, removing sediments and small organisms from the water. It can also lead to their demise if pollution is a problem in the stream.

Reproduction amongst freshwater mussels is fascinating and unusual. After a short incubation, the young mussels (glochidia) are released into the water. There they must find and attach to the gills of certain species of fish. Some mussels can use a number of host fish while others can only use one. If one or more host fish disappear from the stream, the mussels will be unable to reproduce and eventually will die out.

Mussel shells have been used for a variety of things over the years. The plains Indians ate mussels and used the shells for a variety of items, especially for digging and scraping.

More recently, buttons were made from thick-shelled species. In fact, Missouri and Kansas led the nation at one time in buttons produced from mussel shells. You

may notice that many modern buttons try to mimic the coloration and texture of the once-popular shell buttons. One of the biggest button factories in the United States was in Iola, Kan.

Currently, the harvest of mussels in Kansas is regulated by size and species. Most harvested mussels go to the cultured pearl markets overseas.

Freshwater mussels come in all shapes and sizes. In Kansas, the largest is the white heelsplitter that can get up to eight inches in diameter. One of the smallest is the fawnfoot that gets no much bigger than a half-dollar. The most common are the pond mussel and mapleleaf.

Mussels are very long-lived, with some reaching more than 120 years old, with 50-year-old mussels being fairly common. Counting the growth rings on the shell will give the approximate age of the individual, although some rings are difficult to distinguish. The most difficult rings to count are the ones on the outer part of the shell.

Some of the least common mussels in Kansas include the rabbitsfoot, elktoe and mucket. Two species, the black sandshell and the hickory nut, were once common to the state but are now completely extirpated. Relics of the hickory nut and black sandshell can be found at the Kansas River on Fort Riley.

While tempting, it would not be a good idea to cook up a mess of Kansas clams. Because they are so long-lived, they can accumulate a high degree of pollution and sediments and generally do not have a good flavor.

One that can be eaten is the Asiatic Clam, which is not native but fairly common in the state's waters. However, it may be difficult to find many bigger than a silver dollar.

For more information about freshwater mussels in Kansas and on Fort Riley, stop by the Conservation Office, Building 1020, or call 239-6211.

## Wide variety of amphibians, reptiles call Fort Riley home

By Carla S. Hurlbert

Fish and wildlife biologist

Fort Riley is home to an interesting diversity of snakes, lizards, turtles and amphibians, with more than 50 species known to occur in or around the installation. Surveys have been conducted regularly on Fort Riley since 1993.

The barred tiger salamander is the only known salamander found on Fort Riley. The rest of the amphibians are listed under frogs and toads. Bullfrogs and plains leopard frogs are examples of common true frogs.

The Cope's Grey treefrog is the only amphibian in Kansas that can change color completely to blend with its habitat. The boreal chorus frog and northern cricket frog are very small, but very vocal.

The plains spadefoot that inhabits prairies and open floodplains is a rare toad found on Fort Riley.

Rare species that have not been found on Fort Riley but have been recorded in nearby counties are the American toad, which can be found in rocky situations in open woods, and the Great Plains toad, which is a resident of upland mixed-grass and short-grass prairies.

Most reptiles are not as dependent upon nearby water as amphibians. Reptiles have solved the drying-out process by having the skin covered with hard, overlapping scales that help to keep moisture from escaping the body.

The turtle family is a very old and diverse group, unchanged for millions of years. Turtles have

their skeletons modified into a shell into which many of them can withdraw for protection. Some of the freshwater turtles on Fort Riley, such as the common snapping turtles, smooth softshells and spiny softshells, seldom come out of the water although they are able to walk easily.

Other freshwater turtles, such as the northern painted turtle and slider, come out often to bask in the sun but quickly re-enter the water when approached.

Land turtles, such as the ornate box turtle, spend most of their lives on land but like to soak in water occasionally.

The lizard family is most often confused with salamanders, which are amphibians. Lizards have scales and claws while salamanders do not.

The eastern collared lizards are restricted to rocky areas on plains and near woodlands. The Great Plains Skink is a lizard that inhabits open rocky hillsides with low vegetation.

The tallgrass prairie is the home of the western slender glass lizard, which looks and acts more like a snake than a lizard.

The Texas Horned Lizard, Prairie Lizard and Five-lined Skink are rare species found on Fort Riley. The Northern Prairie Skink, which likes open grass-covered, rocky hillsides near streams, has not been found on Fort Riley but records do exist in Fort Riley County.

The snake family is closely related to the lizards and is considered the most modern group of reptiles. Water snakes and common garter snakes eat fish, frogs



A painted box turtle is one of a variety of turtles that can be found inhabiting Fort Riley lands. Conservation Division photo

and worms. These snakes simply swallow their prey because this type of prey can cause little damage to the snake.

Great Plains rat snakes, western rat snakes, milk snakes, ring-neck snakes, gopher snakes and many others feed on rodents, killing their prey before swallowing it by winding around it and suffocating it in the process called constriction.

Some snakes, such as rattlesnakes and copperheads, have specially developed venomous glands. The venom is injected into the prey and the prey is seized after it dies. This provides the snake with a very safe method of capture.

The copperhead is the only venomous snake that has been documented on Fort Riley.

The following list of snakes are rare or uncommon species found on Fort Riley: the Western Hognose Snake, Plains Black Snake, Prairie King Snake, Common King Snake, Plainbelly Water Snake, Northern Water Snake, Brown Snake and Western Ribbon Snake.

These snakes have not been found on Fort Riley but have been recorded in nearby counties: the Eastern Hognose Snake, Diamondback Water Snake, Graham's Crayfish Snake, Plains Garter Snake, Timber Rattlesnake and Massasauga.

A book called "The Snakes, Lizards, Turtles and Amphibians of Fort Riley and Vicinity" by William H. Busby, Joseph T. Collins and Gibran Suleiman has been published. This book provides descriptions, habitats and color plates for each of the 52 species living in or around Fort Riley.

## Springtime means mushrooms

Morel hunting enjoys avid following, gets people outside

By Gibran Suleiman

Wildlife biologist

With the long awaited arrival of spring come dreams of monster spring gobblers, stringers full of crappie and sacks full of morel mushrooms. Although many people are unfamiliar with the art of mushroom hunting, morel hunting has quite a following.

The morel, genus *Morella*, is a highly sought after fungus because of its exquisite taste. Many will argue there is no other mushroom that can beat it. In fact, many restaurants will pay top dollar to mushroom hunters in order to be able to run a dinner special featuring morels.

For a week or two this spring, the woodlands on post will have thousands of morels emerging from the earth. But it is crucially important that morel hunters know what they're doing before they eat any kind of wild fungus.

While there are many edible mushrooms that grow in Kansas, many are toxic to ingest and can even kill the diner.

According to the 1999 Annual Report of the North American Mycological Association Mushroom Poisoning Case Registry, there were 105 human cases of mushroom poisonings reported that year. Two of those were fatal.

It is always recommended that when eating a wild mushroom to wait 24 hours before consuming more. An old bromide repeated by mushroom collectors says: "There are old mushroom hunters, but there are no old, bold mushroom hunters."

The best way for a mushroom neophyte to get started is to hunt with someone who has a lot of experience looking for morels. Not only will they teach you how to identify mushrooms, but they might also give you some helpful

hints on finding morels.

There are also many field guides on mushrooms available. One good book for this region is "A Guide to Kansas Mushrooms" written by Bruce Horn, Richard Kay and Dean Able.

There are no set rules to follow when looking for morels because they show up in many places. However, timing is very important when looking for morels. They typically emerge in Kansas in April or early May.

I will start to look after the first good rain we receive and when the temperature stays above 50 degrees. Morels are easiest to find the day after a rain.

Every seasoned mushroom hunter has his or her own theories on where to search for morels. A good start for beginners would be to look for morels around dead elm trees or cottonwoods along creeks or rivers. But keep in mind that they can be found growing almost anywhere. Sometimes you

might find a lone morel, whereas other times you might find dozens upon dozens.

You do not need a permit to collect morels on Fort Riley. You do, however, need to make sure any area where you hunt is open for nonconsumptive use and you have a natural resources vehicle marker (available at Building 1020) on the dashboard of your vehicle. The DES open area hotline phone number is (785) 239-6669.

Morels can be prepared a number of ways, but they should always be washed well and cooked. One of the simplest ways is to sauté them in butter and add a little bit of seasoning.

Many people prefer to bread them; others will stuff them. Whichever way you decide to prepare them, it is wise not to over-indulge. Even though the morel is not toxic, like many things, it can make you sick if you eat too much.







## ORV parks continued from page 15

not allowed on the trails. Kansas State safety regulations are in effect for the area. Riders must wear mandatory eyewear and juveniles must wear helmets.

Mountain biking is also popular in the area. According to the Corps of Engineers' Web site, mountain biking and ORVs have coexisted for several years along the trail system without incident.

A primitive parking area is available and free. Trails can be accessed from both sides of the parking lot. A vault toilet, refuse dumpster and loading ramp are located in the parking lot.

The park has limited maintenance, so users of the area are expected to pick up after themselves and follow the rules.

Directions to School Creek ORV area:

From Junction City, go 2 miles northwest on Kansas Highway 57. Then go 4 miles west on Kansas Highway 244, 8 miles north on County Road 837 and turn east onto Luttman Road until you reach the area.

### Spillway Cycle Area

The Spillway Cycle Area is 90

acres of open and wooden terrain adjacent to the spillway. Trails range from level stretches to challenging hill climbs.

The area is open to bicycles and all two-, three- and four-wheeled motorized vehicles with a wheelbase of less than 66 inches. The wheelbase limit is strictly enforced. To assist riders in determining their wheelbase, pavement markings set 66 inches apart have been placed near the vault toilets.

Dune buggies and four-wheel drive vehicles are not allowed at the park. All cars and trucks are restricted to the paved parking area.

A cycle area map posted in the parking lot identifies the boundaries where authorized vehicles may be operated. Signs are also set up on the park's boundaries.

Vault toilets, picnic tables and a loading ramp are adjacent to the paved entrance parking lot.

The park is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. year-round.

Directions to the Spillway Cycle Area:

The area joins the spillway just below the east entrance of Tuttle Creek Dam, with access off Dyer Road.

### Tuttle Creek ORV Area

The Tuttle Creek ORV Area is 310 acres of trails, steep climbs, sharp turns and rugged terrain. It is open to all motorized and non-motorized vehicles.

A map posted on the bulletin board near the park entrance notes boundaries. Riders must stay off private property. Boundaries are indicated by barbed wire fences and rock walls.

The Corps of Engineers asks that riders use only existing trails and not create new trails.

Park prohibitions include: riding in creek beds, camping, overnight use, open fires, hunting and firearms.

Fancy Creek State Park, 4 miles north, is the nearest camping area. The public lands outside the parks are open to hunting.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset.

Directions to Tuttle Creek ORV Area:

The area is located 2 miles southeast of Randolph with access off Riley County Road 893 to Secrest Road, then one-half mile east.

## 'Iron Runners' compete in Eisenhower 13.1 miler

By Osceola M. Evans

1st Bn., 16th Inf.

The athletic prowess of the "Iron Ranger" battalion showed April 8, as 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, fielded its first organized running team.

The Eisenhower half-marathon (13.1 miles) was the team's first major event of the running season and is an official qualifier for the famed Boston Marathon. Many of the "Iron Rangers" participating were among the best runners from their respective companies; however, for the great majority of the team's members, this was their first half-marathon.

This being said, expectations were optimistic, but moderate. "Just finish the race" was the oft-repeated mantra of the team's organizer and coach, Staff Sgt. Jesus Lopez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, in the weeks preceding the event.

Coach Lopez emphasized a hard, progressive training regimen designed to condition Soldiers for distance running. The

focus of the program was personal improvement and tenacity. No matter what the runner's ability was, Lopes expected each to work to get better.

The "Iron Runners" arrived in Abilene, Kan., at 7 a.m. with little time to stretch or warm up before the race.

"Many of us had no idea what to expect," said the team's founder, Pfc. Jonathan Trandem, HHC. "We just knew it was important for us to finish, so we could prove ourselves."

With more than 200 runners from across the United States and even some from the international community competing, the field looked experienced and ready.

So were the "Iron Rangers."

The 12-man team led by the most experienced and fastest runner, Spc. Jerry Hlinsky of Company B, got off to a quick start and never looked back. "By the time I hit the half-way point, I thought that I had a really decent chance to win the race. I felt good," Hlinsky said.

The other runners the "Iron Rangers" fielded were equally impressive. Every runner in the

battalion finished the race in the top half of the field regardless of their previous running experience.

Hlinsky finished second overall, beating 206 runners to claim his prize of \$100 and bragging rights throughout the post. Other top qualifiers included Sgt. Tim Roberts of HHC and Sgt. Yoshico Paz of Co. B, who finished first and second in their age group, respectively.

Compared to other organizations competing, the "Iron Rangers" showed they were in a class of their own, posting more top times than any other Army or civilian organization.

"It was important for us to do well, so we could keep the team together, expand it and build on our previous success. We could not have hoped for better results," Lopez said.

More importantly, no one quit and everyone finished. Capt. Rashad Fulcher of HHC, battling an injury, persevered and finished with a respectable time. "I had a flat tire," Fulcher said, "but I kept going."

## Courses continued from page 15

licensed, be a lifelong learner, wear protective gear, ride straight and ride within your skills.

The BRC is a two-day course that includes MSF instruction on the proper techniques for safe operation of the motorcycle as well as a driver skill qualification course and written tests.

The vendor provides the motorcycles, helmets and eye protection. Attendees must bring full-finger gloves, wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and over-the-ankle boots or shoes. Everyone attending must have a license or permit to operate an automobile. A motorcycle license or permit is not needed.

The ERC is a one-day course that includes MSF advanced level instruction on the proper techniques for safe operation of motorcycles as well as a driver skill qualification course and a written test.

Personnel attending must have a Department of Transportation-approved helmet, eye protection, full-finger gloves, wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and over-the-ankle boots or shoes and bring a motorcycle that is in good operating condition.

Everyone attending the ERC must have a valid license issued by a civil authority to operate a motorcycle or moped and insurance required by Kansas law.

The ATVSC is about a five-

hour course that includes ATV Safety Institute instruction on the proper techniques for safe operation of the ATV and a driver skill qualification course.

The vendor provides the ATVs and helmets. Attendees must wear eye protection, full-finger gloves, a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and over-the-ankle boots or shoes.

The DBRC is a five-hour course that includes MSF instruction on the proper techniques for safe operation of the dirt bike as well as a driver skill qualification course.

The vendor provides the dirt bikes and helmets. Attendees must wear eye protection, full-finger gloves, a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and over-the-ankle boots or shoes. Personal dirt bikes may be used if they are

250cc or less.

Military personnel wanting to attend one of the courses must go through their schools noncommissioned officer starting at company level. The brigade schools NCO will coordinate all MDDC for that brigade with the ISO coordinator except for separate battalions or companies.

All family members must have their sponsor's commander's signature for enrollment and can coordinate directly with the ISO. All DAC's will coordinate enrollment through their directorate safety officer with the director's signature.

All Military Retirees and USAR/USARNG Soldiers working on Fort Riley will coordinate with the ISO coordinator at 239-2334.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS





# Chorus schedules annual spring show

By Harvey Kiser

VP, Little Apple Chorus

The Little Apple Chorus presents its spring show, "The Best of Barbershop," at 2 and 7:30 p.m. April 29 in the Kansas State University's McCain Auditorium.

Richard Jackson of Milford, Kan., and Chris Grose of Fort Riley, two young men who serve in the U.S. Army, participate in the 74-member Little Apple Chorus. Other chorus members from the surrounding area include Gary Drake and Tom Fish, both with Fort Riley connections.

The show will feature songs with romantic, nostalgic, Dixieland, spiritual and patriotic themes. The production showcases chapter quartets The Charades, Manhattan Music Machine, Apple Coretet, Men of A Chord and

Willies Boys. Guest soloists who will join the chorus are Linda Uthoff, a Manhattan vocal music teacher, and Austin Short, a K-State vocal music major.

Flipside, from the Pacific Northwest, is the headliner quartet. This quartet is one of the best in the world, placing eighth in International Finals last July at the 2005 International Competition held in Salt Lake City.

Manhattan Barefoot Dixieland Band will perform 30 minutes before each show. It has become a tradition to hear this local band.

Tickets are \$12 in advance from a chapter member and \$15 at the door.

The vision of the chorus, chartered in 1977, is to proclaim, perpetuate and enjoy the a cappella music art form with emphasis on the barbershop style.

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# Arts center presents 'Charlie Brown'

Manhattan Arts Center

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," the Broadway musical, opens April 28 at the Manhattan Arts Center. The musical runs April 28-30 and May 4-7 with Saturday performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Join the entire Peanuts gang in a day in the life of Charlie Brown. Made up of moments selected from favorite Peanuts stories, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" includes everything from Valentine's Day to the baseball season and the wild optimism to utter despair, all strung together on the string of a single day.

Follow the gang from the bright uncertain morning to a hopeful starlit evening in a wonderfully effervescent musical perfect for the entire family.

Directed by Tyler Woods, and accompanied by Shauna Tominey, the cast features Nick Robinson, Lauren Rohrer, Daniel Myers-

Bowman, Patrick Barton, Denis Craig, Elizabeth Sykes, Andrea Huckaba, Julie Curtin and Adam Engelman.

Tickets for the performance are \$14 for adults, \$10 for students and \$6 for children. The Arts Center now offers \$2 off adult ticket prices to members of the military showing an ID card.

For information and reservations, call 537-4420.

The Manhattan Arts Center is located at 1520 Poyntz.

For more information on this and other performances at the Manhattan Arts Center, visit its Web site at [www.manhattanarts.org](http://www.manhattanarts.org).

The Manhattan Arts Center is funded in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Additional funding comes from the City of Manhattan and MAC members and friends.

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